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BIRTHS.

July 8, at T'ai Yuen Fu, Shansi, N. China, the wife of the Rev. ARTHUR SOWERBY, of a son.

July 26 at Blackmount, Otago, New Zealand, the wife of ALFRED RICHARD HARE, of a son.

July 30, at Penang, the wife of the Rev. H. McD. COURTNEY, M.A. Oxon, of a son.

Sept. 15, the wife of the Rev. E. G. A. WINTER, East Bradenham Rectory, Norfolk, of a son.

Sept. 15, at Easthorpe Hall, Yorkshire, the Hon. Mrs. LYULPH STANLEY, of a daughter.

Sept. 16, at Cowlings Vicarage, the wife of A. H. THOMAS, of a daughter.

Sept. 17 at Spalding Grammar School, the wife of the Rev. O. D. INSKIP, of a son.

Sept. 18, at the Vicarage, Langton-green, the wife of the Rev. STANLEY A. VARDON, of a son.

Sept. 18, at the Vicarage, Barton under-Needlwood, the wife of the Rev. W. H. H. FAIRCLOUGH, of a daughter.

Sept. 18, at the Vicarage, Stanstead Abbotts, Herts, the wife of the Rev. J. P. HOBSON, of a daughter.

Sept. 18, the wife of Rev. E. T. MARSHALL, Manea Vicarage, Cambs, of a son.

Sept. 18, at Kilmory, Loch-Gilp-Head, N.B., the wife of SIR JOHN CAMPBELL-ORDE, of a daughter, stillborn.

Sept. 19, at 10, Burlington-street, Bath, the wife of the Rev. B. NORTON-THOMPSON, of a daughter.

Sept. 19, at The Schools, Shrewsbury, the wife of the Rev. C. J. S. CHURCHILL, of a daughter.

Sept. 19, at Carleton, Pontefract, the wife of the Rev. A. C. BLOMFIELD, M.A., of a son.

Sept. 20, at Shanklin, the wife of Sir PHILIP FREDERICK ROSE, Bart., of Rayners, Bucks, of a daughter, stillborn.

Sept. 20, at Ripple Court, the Lady SARAH SLADEN, of a son.

Sept. 21, the wife of the Rev. EDGAR C. S. GIBSON, Wells, Somerset, of a son.

Sept. 21, at Eaton Bishop Rectory, Hereford, the wife of the Rev. C. BURROUGH, M.A., of a son.

Sept. 22, at Crescent House, Billericay, Essex, the wife of the Rev. F. MONKHOUSE SPARKS, of a son.

Sept. 22, at Rodbourne, Malmesbury, the wife of Sir RICHARD HUNGERFORD POLLEN, Bart., of a daughter.

Sept. 22, at Kidbrook Rectory, S.E., the wife of the Rev. JOHN C. LEEKE, of a daughter.

Sept. 23, at Whitchurch, Hants, the wife of the Rev. H. EDMUND SHARPE, M.A., Curate-in-Charge, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

July 22, at Melbourne, Australia, HENRY HUGH, son of the late Rev. J. Y. HUGHES, Vicar of Christ Church, East Greenwich, to JESSIE, daughter of F. GEORGE, Esq., late of Woolwich, Kent.

Sept. 1, at Christ Church, Worthing, the Rev. J. H. CROSS, M.A., to MARIAN, eldest daughter of the late A. W. HAYLES, Esq., of Edith-grove, West Brompton.

Sept. 15, at St. Nicholas' Church, Chiswick, the Rev. THOS. H. FOULKES, M.A. Cantab, to ETHEL FRANCES IRVINE, daughter of CHARLES CONNORS, Esq., of Stafford House, Chiswick.

Sept. 16, at James-town, Ross-shire, N.B., FORTESCUE FOX, M.B., London, of Strathpeffer Spa, N.B., to KATHARINE STEWART, daughter of the Rev. W. S. MACDOUGALL, Minister of the Free Church of Scotland, James-town.

Sept. 17, at St. John's, Ealing Dean, the Rev. W. ELLISON, M.A., Chaplain of Jullundar, Punjab, to MARY, only daughter of the Rev. JULIUS SUMMERHAYES, Vicar of St. John's, Ealing Dean.

Sept. 17 at Christ Church, Skipton-in-Craven, the Rev. A. E. WATSON, M.A., Christ's College, Cambridge, Chaplain at St. Petersburg, to LILY, second daughter of JOHN SCOTT, Esq., Ashfield, Skipton-in-Craven.

Sept. 17, at St. Saviour's Church, Maida-vale, Dr. G. NORMAN ROBINS, of Down Hall, Rippingale, to FLORA, FRANCES, only child of the late Dr. F. C. MACDONALD, and stepdaughter of Frederick J. Jones, of 19 Sutherland-gardens.

Sept 17, at Wesleyan Chapel, Wanstead, GEORGE DENNIS, L.D.S. Engs., eldest son of the Rev. GEORGE CURNOCK, St. Peter's-road, St. Albans, to MARY, eldest daughter of JOHN ASHCROFT LESLIE, Lansdowne House, Sparesbrook.

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Fish Napkins, 2s. 11d. per doz. Dinner Napkins, 5s. 6d per doz. Table Cloths, 2 yds. square, 2s. 11d.; 2½ yds. by 3 yds., 5s. 11d. each. Kitchen Table Cloths, 11½d. each. Strong Huckaback Towels, 4s. 6d. per doz. Monograms, Crests, Coats of Arms, Initials, &c., woven and embroidered. **AND DAMASKS.**

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Gentlemen's, do. do. 3s. 8d. "

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MARRIAGES.

Sept. 17, at St. Mary Abbott's, Kensington, the Rev. HARRY DARWIN, second son of F. M. BURTON, Esq., of Highfield, Gainsborough, to HELEN PHILIPPA, eldest daughter of General BAUMGARTNER, C.B., of Island Hall, Godmanchester, Hunts.

Sept. 17, at All Saints', Ladbroke, the Rev. MORRIS JONES, Rector designate of Tilston, Cheshire, to ALICE MARY, only daughter of the late JOHN SMITH, Esq., of Ladbroke House.

Sept. 17, at the parish church, Heavitree, Exeter, ALAN GEORGE FERRERS HOWELL, youngest son of the late Thomas Jones Howell, West Eaton-place, London, to ANNE MARY GEORGINA, youngest daughter of Vice-Admiral R. D. WHITE, C.B., of 11, Baring-crescent, Heavitree.

Sept 17, at St. Mary's Church, Chester, GEORGE HERBERT, second son of the Rev. EDWARD REYNOLDS, of Stallion, Appledore, Devon, to MARGARET ELIZA (LILLIE), second daughter of THOMAS VERNON ROYLE, of Dingle Bank, Chester.

Sept. 23. VICTOR ALEXANDER, fourth son of the late Marquis of HERTFORD, to ELIZABETH MARGARET, eldest daughter of ALBEMARLE CATOR, Esq., of Woodbastwick Hall, Norfolk.

DEATHS.

Aug. 20, on board the P. and O. steamer *Valetta*, while on a voyage to Australia for his health, Colonel CHARLES DYNELEY BAYNES, Madras Staff Corps, eldest son of C. R. Baynes, Esq., of The Lammas, Minchinhampton, aged 52.

Sept. 12, at Davos Platz, Switzerland, ANN ROBERTSON, youngest daughter of Major E. B. FRASER, Redburn-by-Inverness.

Sept. 15, EDWARD GEORGE BLOMFIELD, M.A., lately Vicar of Woolston, Southampton, eldest son of George John Blomfield, M.A., Rector of Aldington East, Kent, aged 31

Sept. 17, at Richmond, Surrey, MARY ANN, widow of EDWARD HASLINGDEN RUSSELL, within nine days of completing her 78th year.

Sept. 18, at Skipton-in-Craven, SARAH ANN ALICE, wife of the Rev. W. H. CLARKE, M.A., aged 80.

Sept. 18, at 36, Palmerston-place, Edinburgh, after a short illness, Lord TEIGNMOUTH, in his 90th year.

Sept. 18, at Eversley, Winchmore-hill, HENRY WIGAN, second son of the late Edward Wigan, of 17, Highbury-terrace, Islington, aged 52.

Sept. 18, at Far View, Malton, MADELINE HILDA ELLIOT, younger daughter of the late Rev. W. H. Elliot, Vicar of Stainton-in-Cleveland, Yorks.

Sept. 18, at Stoke Newington, MARGARET, only surviving daughter of the late Rev. JOHN STEPHENSON, Vicar of Dacre, Cumberland, in her 80th year.

Sept. 18, at Ormsary, Argyleshire, JOHN CAMPBELL SHAIRP, LL.D., Principal of the United College of St. Salvator and St. Leonards, St. Andrews, N.B., and Professor of Poetry in the University of Oxford.

Sept. 18, at Rio, North Malvern, WILLIAM, 1st surviving son of the late Rev. JAMES ROE, Rector of Newbury, aged 89.

Sept. 19, at 18, Adelaide-square, Bedford, HENRY WYNDHAM NEVILLE, youngest son of Rev. Nigel Neville, Rector of Eversley, aged 6.

Sept. 20, at Vernon Cottage, Ruthin, ROSA EMILY, widow of the Rev. J. W. FREEBORN, late Head Master of the Ruthin Grammar School.

Sept. 22, at 9, Filton-road, Kensington, MARY, widow of the Rev. JOHN HALLEWELL, M.A. Cantab., formerly Chaplain H.E.I.C.S., Madras Presidency.

Sept. 22, at 108, Disraeli-road, Putney, ANN JANE KITSON, widow of the Rev. Edward Kitson, late Rector of North Huish, Devon, and formerly Chaplain to Greenwich Hospital, aged 75.

Sept. 23, at Colwyn Bay, after a few days' illness, ELLEN, widow of the Rev. CLEMENT CHARLES SHARPE, late Vicar of Bucknell, Salop.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—For the first time on record a political meeting was held on Sunday in the interior of the Paris Bourse. Revolutionists of all shades were invited by certain leaders of the Possiblist section of the Revolutionary party to hold a discussion, and the result, as might have been expected, was a scene of extraordinary violence and tumult. There was a fight on the platform between two sections for the chairmanship. Fists and sticks were freely used, glasses and benches were smashed, revolvers were fired. One man was led out bleeding, another had a wound in the cheek, and a third had his lip cut. The Anarchists were eventually routed by the Possiblists, whose leaders had convened the meeting, and who then delivered speeches denouncing the rule of the middle classes and appealing to working men to supplant them. The meeting, however, continued turbulent, and it was always difficult and frequently impossible to make out what was going on. The Anarchists had posted placards recommending neutrality at the elections, on the ground that nothing could be hoped for by Parliamentary methods. The police were careful to be absent.

The cholera epidemic at Marseilles and Toulon seems almost at an end, and no other serious centre of infection has yet appeared. On Wednesday week there was one death at Toulon, Thursday 2, Friday 6, Saturday and Sunday 0 The peculiar suddenness continues to be characteristic of the fatal cases. The municipal ambulance service was discontinued after Wednesday, and on Saturday the Bon Recontre Hospital was closed. The special cholera bulletin at Marseilles has been discontinued. Two deaths have occurred there among soldiers from Tonquin in the military hospital. The Minister of War is loudly blamed for not continuing to send invalid soldiers from the East to the island of Porquerolles.

Prince Napoleon has issued his electoral manifesto, in which he accuses the Imperialists of having placed themselves at the service of the Bourbons, and of having stirred up a revolt in his family, and declares that he will hold aloof from the electoral movement until the day arrives when the necessity is felt for a Constituent Assembly which will assign to the people the task of nominating the head of the State.

The *Journal Officiel*, publishing the statistics with regard to the population of France in 1884, gives the excess of births over deaths as being 78,974, as against 96,843 in 1883, 97,027 in 1882, 108,229 in 1881, and 61,940 in 1880. Altogether there were 937,758 births and 858,784 deaths. In thirty-nine departments the deaths exceeded the births, the excess being greatest in the district where the cholera prevailed, though there was also a slight excess in departments such as the Calvados, the Orne, the Seine-Inférieure, and others in what was formerly the province of Normandy. In the departments of Brittany, which are poor compared to those of Normandy, there was a considerable excess of births over deaths; 4,494 in the Morbihan, 3,259 in the Finistère, 3,120 in the Loire-Inférieure, 2,769 in the Côtes-du-Nord, and 1,494 in the Ille-et-Vilaine. The total number of births in the department of the Seine (Paris) was 80,270, and of deaths 72,735, showing an excess of 7,735 for the former. The total number of legitimate births was 862,004, and of illegitimate births 75,754, being one in eleven of the whole. The proportion of births to deaths is 29 per 1,000, and of deaths 27 per cent.

GERMANY.—On Friday the Federal Council assented to the proposal of the Prussian Government to prolong for another year in Berlin the minor state of siege, with the exceptional police measures attached thereto, as authorised by the Anti-Socialist Law.

The Prussian Government has again rejected the proposals made by the Vatican, both as regards the choice of the successor to the vacant See of Posen, and the question of Ecclesiastical Education in Seminaries. Dr. von Schlözer, the Prussian Minister at the Vatican, has returned, bringing counter-proposals from his Government, which, according to the Berlin correspondent of the *Standard*, are very conciliatory.

A ten days' Mission has just been concluded at Baden-Baden, under the conduct of Prebendary Sir J. E. Philipps, assisted by the Rev. F. A. Ormsby, vicar of Hanover Church, Regent-street, and has been attended by ever-increasing congregations to the close. The German Empress attended a weekday service for women and also the morning service of the last Sunday.

DENMARK.—The ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the new English church at Copenhagen took place on Saturday. The proceedings commenced with the singing of a hymn, after which the Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by their three daughters, advanced to the foundation-stone, which was suspended over the spot where it was to be placed. The architect then presented a silver trowel to the Princess, and the stone having been lowered her Royal Highness laid some mortar round the edges. The Hon. E. Monson, the British Minister, then delivered a short speech. He said that occasions like the present contributed more to the union of the two nations than might be imagined, and expressed the hope that the existing friendship between England and Denmark would long continue. The Prince of Wales delivered an address, in the course of which he thanked those who had contributed towards the cost of the church, especially the countrymen of the Princess of Wales, also the Danish authorities for their cordial assistance. In a cavity of the foundation-stone a number of English and Danish coins were deposited together with a parchment containing the names of all the Imperial and Royal personages who attended the ceremony. The names of the Duc de Chartres' family were also included on the scroll, although none of them were present, owing to the slight indisposition of the Duchess.

SPAIN.—The vessels which the Spanish Government propose to purchase are, a Madrid paper states, two first-class cruisers now building in the yard of Messrs. Armstrong, Mitchell, and Company, and originally intended for the Japanese Government. Each vessel has a tonnage of 3,600, and carries two 28-ton and six 5-ton guns, besides machine guns and torpedoes. One of the ships will probably be ready for sea by the middle of next month, and the other in January, 1886.

The admission of Señor Canovas in 1876, with regard to the Carolines, has become known in Spain, and seems to have produced a great effect. It is reported that the Spanish Government has telegraphed to Count Benomar to stop all negotiations on the basis of its last Note and to come at once to the best arrangement possible. The Ministerial defence has been published, according to which Mr. Layard's statement was inaccurate, and if true only referred to sovereignty *de facto* not *de jure*. Besides, declarations not made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, even if made by the Premier, have no international value. The Public Prosecutor has nearly completed the case for the prosecution of the assailants of the German Legation. Proceedings will be also taken against similar offenders at Vigo and Valencia. It is hoped this prompt action will deter Germany from asking for further satisfaction.

BULGARIA.—The population of Eastern Roumelia has unanimously proclaimed the union of that country with Bulgaria. Without bloodshed the Government was yesterday week deposed, and a Provisional Government established. Gabriel Pasha, the Governor-General, was removed to a secure place outside the city, where, although placed under guard, he is treated with every attention due to his rank. All communication between Eastern Roumelia and Turkey was cut off, and the militia and detachments of the National Guard were sent to different points along the frontier.

The *Times* correspondent at Vienna, in his narrative of the course of events says:—"The first acts of the insurrectionary Government were to place Gavril Pasha and the general commanding the Roumelian militia, Borthwick Pasha, under arrest, and to issue a manifesto proclaiming Prince Alexander of Bulgaria Sovereign of Eastern Roumelia and Prince of United Bulgaria. A message was then transmitted to Varna inviting Prince Alexander to come to Philippopolis, and calling upon the people of North Bulgaria to rise in support of the revolution. At the same time, orders were issued to cut the telegraphic communication between Philippopolis and Adrianople, to destroy several miles' length of the railway at different points, to blow up the railway bridge at Mustapha, and to direct militia battalions on all the principal strategical positions of the frontier towards Turkey. All these orders were executed with a promptitude which showed that every detail in the revolutionary programme had been carefully planned. Meanwhile, M. Stransky's summons found Prince Alexander and his Prime Minister, M. Karaveloff, quite ready at Varna. On Friday evening the Prince drew up a ukase, mobilising the army, and summoning the National Assembly to meet at Sophia on Tuesday next, the 22nd. The proclamation, moreover, announced that Prince Alexander intended to respond to the call of the Roumeliots, and to cross the border at once. Copies of this manifesto, posted yesterday in the principal towns of Bulgaria, caused an almost delirious enthusiasm. Mass meetings were held in the afternoon at Varna, Rustchuk, Nicopolis, Kustendje, Vranja, and Sophia, and amid uproarious acclamations resolutions were voted thanking Prince Alexander for having so promptly answered the summons of the Bulgarians' 'oppressed brothers,' and assuring him that the Bulgarians were ready to make any sacrifice for the emancipation of Eastern Roumelia. In the evening there were illuminations, bonfires, and torchlight processions at Varna, Rustchuk, and Sophia."

Prince Alexander, accompanied by M. Karaveloff, left Varna for Philippopolis on Saturday evening, and arrived at Kasarilik on Sunday. He was hailed triumphantly at every place of stoppage on his route. He made his State entry into Philippopolis on Monday morning, having crossed the Balkans by the historic Shipka Pass. He had a frantically enthusiastic reception.

In his manifesto the Prince recognises the union of the two Bulgarian States as "an accomplished fact," and accepts the title of Prince of the two Bulgarias, North and South. He adds:—"In accepting the goverment of this province, I declare that the lives, honour and property of all peaceable inhabitants, without distinction of religion or nationality, shall be protected and guaranteed. For the preservation of peace and order all the necessary measures have been taken, and all persons agitating against these measures will be severely punished. I trust, my beloved people, that the two Balkan countries which have welcomed this great event with enthusiasm will give their assistance with a view to the consolidation of the holy act of union of the two Bulgarias, and will be ready to make all necessary sacrifices and efforts for the defence of the union and for the independence of our beloved country."

It is reported that Prince Alexander has telegraphed to the Czar an explanation concerning his connection with the rising in Eastern Roumelia, and that an answer has been sent to the effect that the Great Powers are alone competent to move in the matter. The Prince is said to have pointed out to the Powers that he was unable to withstand the popular feeling in favour of effecting the Union, but he expresses his intention to reconcile himself as far as possible with the state of things created by the Treaty of Berlin. He has also sent a circular to the Powers announcing the union of Eastern Roumelia, and asking the Powers to recognise it as an accomplished fact. The Prince has also telegraphed to the Sultan, acknowledging his suzerainty and offering to continue payment of the tribute. He inspected the men of the Reserve on their departure for the frontier, observing that they had no quarrel with the Turks, but if their action was disputed they would fight the Turks to the death, in which case he should always be in the thick of the fight.

SERVIA.—King Milan, on returning to Belgrade, was received with much enthusiasm. The mobilisation of the Army has been resolved upon, and the first summons will bring 60,000 men under arms.

The object of the mobilisation of the Army and other measures taken by the Servian Cabinet is stated to be to place Servia in a state of readiness to defend the *status quo* established in the Balkan peninsula by the Treaty of Berlin, or in the event of new combinations in the Balkans to enable Servia to be in a position to seriously consider her vital interests. At a meeting of representatives of all parties held at Belgrade on Wednesday, it was resolved to defend by force of arms, if necessary, the claims of Servia to Northern Macedonia. As soon as the troops are mobilised they will march with all speed to the frontier.

TURKEY.—The Catholic Armenian Patriarch, the Œcumenical Patriarchal Vicar, and several other ecclesiastical and lay notabilities connected with the Eastern Church, have successively paid visits to Sir H. Drummond Wolff, in order to represent to him the present state of Church affairs.

Negotiations between Sir H. Drummond Wolff and the Turkish Commissioners are progressing. Certain general principles have been already agreed upon as a basis for an eventual arrangement, and these points are now under the consideration of the British and Turkish Governments.

The Sultan has composed a piece of music for the Imperial band. His Majesty has dedicated his work to his favourite wife, a daughter of the late Abdul Aziz.

Two Greek ladies, one of them the niece of the Archbishop of Verria, have been captured near that town by brigands, who demand a ransom of £3,000. Hassan Pasha has gone to the spot in order to try to rescue the ladies.

The New Governor of Salonica has arrived at his residence and has issued a circular to the foreign Consuls in which he expresses his desire to maintain friendly relations with them. This act has produced a good impression. The late Vali was not popular.

Reports have been received here from Prisrend, in Upper Albania, of fighting having occurred between the Turkish troops and the Albanians of the Djakovo district. Veissel Pasha, the Turkish commander at Prisrend, proceeded at once to the spot with five battalions of infantry.

To the signatories of the Treaty of Berlin the Porte has issued a Circular protesting against the conduct of the Prince of Bulgaria and against the violation of the Treaty of Berlin, declaring that the Sultan is resolved upon effectually exercising the rights conferred upon him by that treaty. The sixteenth article empowers the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia to call in the aid of Turkish troops should the security of the province be menaced from without or from within, and in that case the Sublime Porte is bound to intimate its decision and state the justifying necessities of the case to the reprerentatives of the Powers at Constantinople. Some Turkish battalions have been already concentrated at Mustapha Pasha, on the Roumelian frontier.

EGYPT.—Intelligence confirming the reports of Osman Digna's death continues to be received by the authorities in Cairo. The rebel leader, it appears, was killed after a crushing defeat of his force of 3,000 Hadendowas by the Kassala garrison and friendly tribes. The latter immediately after the victory despatched ample supplies and cattle into Kassala.

Further confirmation has arrived at Souakim of the reports that the Kassala garrison have made terms with certain Arab tribes, and have successfully attacked the rebels.

INDIA.—The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* says that the floods which for the last fortnight have laid a large portion of the province of Bengal under water are slowly subsiding; but most harrowing accounts of the ruin already wrought continue to come in daily. The principal cause of damage in the central and eastern districts was the bursting of the Lilitakuri embankment, near Moorshedabad. This gave way on the 1st inst., and within a few days a large part of the districts of Moorshedabad, Rajshahi, Jessore, and Nuddea, and portions of the Pergunnahs were under water. Fortunately, the flood rose slowly, so that the people had time to escape; but great numbers of cattle must have been lost, and the crop of rice has been in every district entirely lost or seriously injured. Traffic on the Eastern Bengal and Central Bengal Railways has been suspended for some days past, and there are still wide breaks over which passengers are ferried in boats for distances of two or three miles and upwards. The Amun rice crop is probably ruined. On Saturday a deputation consisting of representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, trade associations, the British India Association, and the Calcutta Missionary Conference, waited on the Lieutenant-Governor to ascertain what steps the Government proposed to take to relieve the distress. The representative of the Chamber of Commerce described the state of things as deplorable, and suggested that a public meeting should be called with the object of raising subscriptions. The Lieutenant-Governor said if they desired to hold a public meeting he would preside; but he thought such a step premature at present. His experience of floods was that, while they were very disastrous in appearance, the after-effects were not so bad. The public should trust to the Government to do all it could. If later reports showed that there was general distress, then outside assistance could be invoked. The reports received from Mysore are rather better. A portion of the crops will be saved, but there will probably be severe scarcity.

Some further details have transpired regarding the proposed additions to the native army in India. Four new regiments of infantry, in addition to the five new Goorkha regiments, will be added to the Bengal army. They will be recruited mainly from the Sikhs and the other warlike races of Upper India, and possibly one of them will be constituted as a Pioneer regiment, composed of Muzbi Sikhs. This will enable the triple-battalion scheme to be applied to the Pioneers, there being already two such regiments in existence. Representations are being made to the Nepaulese Government with a view to facilitating the enlistment of Ghoorkas. It is also stated that, by way of further improving the condition of the native soldiers, good-service pay and increments will be granted after periods of three, six, and nine years, instead of three, nine, and fifteen, as hitherto.

It is understood at Simla that the Indian Government, having had its attention directed to the dispute betwen the Burmese Government and the Bombay and Burmah Trading Association, proposes to take the necessary steps to protect the interests of British subjects.

It is expected, says a telegram from Simla, that the Afghan Boundary Commission will complete the delimitation of the frontier between the Heri Rud and the Murghab before winter sets in. They will remain encamped during the cold season near Herat, and will resume their work in the spring, proceeding then with the settlement of the frontier between the Murghab and the Oxus.

BURMAH.—Reuter's Calcutta correspondent states that the following are the provisions of the secret treaty between France and Burmah:—"France is granted the exclusive concession for the construction of railways in Upper Burmah. The Burmese Government guarantees 7½ per cent. on the outlay for the construction of the line between Mandalay and Tonghoo. The French Government to control the Customs receipts on the Irrawaddy route as security for the interest; any surplus to be paid to Burmah. The treaty also empowers the French Government to establish a bank at Mandalay, with a capital of 250 lakhs of rupees; half the shares to be taken by France and half by Burmah. The French Government to have the control of the Customs revenue from the tea trade and the working of the ruby mines as security for the bank capital advanced. The treaty includes a demand of the King of Burmah upon the Bombay and Burmah Trading Company for a sum of twenty-three lakhs, and provides that in case of non-compliance their forests will be confiscated.

The trial of the prisoners who were accused of the bank frauds in Vienna finished at a late hour on Tuesday night. Kufller was found guilty, and sentenced to seven years' penal servitude. The other prisoner was acquitted.

Disturbances in the cholera-stricken districts of Italy continue to occur; but in Palermo and Messina a quieter feeling has prevailed since the receipt of the King's message and the adoption of firmer action by the authorities.

IRELAND.

What is supposed to have been a raid for arms was made on Sunday, at Castle Fort, at the entrance to Cork Harbour, and neither the military nor the police were able to throw any light upon the occurrence. The Western Division of Artillery, stationed at the fort, were about leaving for India. A number of carbines were put into a hut after an ordnance survey, and among these were four carbines and two swords placed in a corner by themselves. The arms were last seen at nine o'clock on Saturday night by Serjeant-Major Hill, who had charge of the battery, and on Sunday night there were four carbines and two swords missing. Three panes of glass were smashed in the window, which enabled a person to open it, and there were marks of mud on the wall beneath the window, which is but 7ft. from the ground. Strangers would have to pass close to several sentries to get near the arms hut, and the police believe it impossible that strangers could have carried away arms from the fort without the assistance of an accomplice in the fort.

An armed party, consisting of three men with blackened faces, on Sunday visited the house of a labourer named Thomas Keane, residing on the townland of Dysart, near Korofin. Having broken in the doors with stones, they proceeded to Keane's bedroom, dragged him out of bed, and placed him on his knees in the kitchen, where they belaboured him with sticks, leaving him quite prostrate. Not satisfied with this, one of the party before departing approached him and discharged the contents of a revolver into one of his legs, near the ankle. The motives assigned for the cowardly act are twofold. One is that Keane gave information to sheriffs' bailiffs, who were about to execute a writ for non-payment of rent, which put the officers on the alert and aided them in making a large seizure of cattle; the other was that he had taken the place of a workman named Dillon, recently discharged from the service of the Rev. Robert Fitzgerald.

Mr. Biggar, M.P., addressing a meeting at Ballyquileen, near Bandon, on Sunday, condemned outrages as unprofitable and injurious to the movement for the achievement of national rights. He advised boycotting as a means to rid the district of land-grabbing, but said that it should not be originated by a resolution of the local branch of the league, but should arise from individual action. He expressed himself hopeful of the success of the Home Rule movement.

The system of boycotting which they are doing so much at the National League meetings to extend is (the Dublin correspondent of the *Times* says) now admirably organised. It is so perfect that even the authorities bear the highest testimony to it. Here is a proof of the supremacy of the "ordinary law." A telegram was sent on Monday morning from the Land Corporation to one of the caretakers in the county Roscommon, but a message was received from the postal authorities that it could not be delivered by messengers, as no person could be found to take it, the caretaker being boycotted. The telegram was sent to a caretaker on a farm in Roscommon directing him to swear an information to grant application for compensation for injury to a quantity of hay, which was maliciously destroyed. The farm is on the Tredennick estate, near Dromond. Another example, taken from the county Limerick, illustrates still better the ramifications of the system. A widow who has a daughter and grandchildren living with her was boycotted for lending horses to a magistrate. She did not get any formal notice of the fact, but heard some rumours of dissatisfaction. The first intimation she received was when her labourers left her employment. She sent to the baker and butcher in the town, but neither would supply her wants. She sent into Limerick, and for a few days was supplied; but the fact that she was boycotted became known, and the traders refused to give her any more. She went herself to a well-known bakery establishment in Limerick where she had been dealing for twenty-five years, and which had a branch in the town she lived in, and remon-

strated with the proprietor. He told her that he knew nothing about it, and that he would give orders that she should be supplied. She returned to and informed the manager, who said that "the devil a loaf she should get." The manager went into Limerick and informed his employer that he would not give any bread to her, that the employer could dismiss him if he chose, but he warned him that if he did every man in his employment would leave him. The effect of this was that she was still refused; and if it had not been for the police, who gave her some food, she and her family might have starved. She wrote to her brother in Kilmerock to ask him to send and take the children, as she had no one to mind them. The fact becoming known, his own neighbours warned him not to send, as if he did he would himself be boycotted. The result was that she had to make her submission to the League and sign a pledge never to supply the police or other authorities again. The master of the county hounds has subscribed £100 to the funds of the League as the price of being allowed to hunt.

Speaking at a meeting of the National League in Dublin on Tuesday, Mr. Healy, M.P., said that since their last meeting a long address had been issued by Mr. Gladstone, and he supposed that some reference should be made to it on that occasion. He confessed, however, that he found very great difficulty in saying anything in reference to it, and anyone who read it would find himself in a similar position. Those who took it up could make what they liked of it. It had pleased Lord Hartington, it had pleased Mr. Chamberlain, as well as Mr. Goschen, and he supposed it ought to please them. If those people knew what "the grand old man" was driving at, he was sure he did not. One part of it contained a very stinging rebuke to Mr. Chamberlain's utterances. Of course they knew that Mr. Chamberlain had not made his famous parallel with regard to the forty millions with the consent of Mr. Gladstone. He had in this case used a most dangerous expression, and he (Mr. Healy) congratulated Mr. Gladstone upon having administered a reproof in his address. He thought that nothing more calculated to promote disorder and outrage among Irishmen, from the mildest to the most extreme, had ever been said by any Minister or ex-Minister than was uttered by Mr. Chamberlain on the occasion referred to.

Outrages are still reported from the South, chiefly from the counties of Cork, Kerry, and Limerick. It is stated that in Killarney the police on Sunday found posted on the Convent of Mercy gates a notice threatening with certain death any person who should be seen dealing with a man named Kelleher. On the same morning another notice was found posted at the entrance to the Franciscan Church, which threatened with death any person who would pay rent to the local landlords. A Limerick paper states that a number of threatening letters have been in circulation in the neighbourhood of Askeaton. Mr. Hunt, the barony constable, received one of the letters, threatening him with serious consequences if he did not at once discharge his two deputy cess collectors. It also states that two heifers, belonging to a man named Buckley, of Cappagh, near Rathkeale, have been cruelly mutilated by having their tails, ears, and legs cut off.

It is stated in Dublin that a deputation is being projected from the landlords of Ireland to the Prime Minister, respecting the difficulty of collecting rent in Ireland, and the necessity of enforcing the rights of landowners by the agencies of the law. Memorials and statements have been received by the Government from individual members of the landlord body, and last week an exalted dignitary of the Irish Church wrote inviting the Marquis of Salisbury's earnest attention to the development of the National League organisation and the consequences likely to ensue.

POLITICAL AND PERSONAL.

The Revising Barrister at Oxford on Thursday night gave his decision upon the claims of the undergraduates to vote at Parliamentary elections. Having decided that they were not tenants, and that they did not occupy their rooms for the qualifying period, he expunged all the names from the lists. Notice of appeal was given against the decision.

At the Registration-court at Windsor on Saturday the claims to vote made by the Naval and Military Knights of Windsor were disallowed by the Revising Barrister, who consented to grant a case.

A meeting of the proprietors of several leading metropolitan business houses met on the premises of Messrs. Marshall and Snelgrove on Thursday evening to discuss the recent decisions against the claims of business *employés* to the franchise. After some consideration it was resolved to form a Service Franchise Association to protect the registration of claims under the late Act.

The annual conference of the National Union of Conservative Associations will be held at Newport, Monmouthshire, on the 5th, 6th, and 7th of October. On the concluding day the Marquis of Salisbury will receive deputations and addresses from the various Conservative organisations of Monmouthshire and South Wales, and deliver a political address in the large pavilion which will be specially erected in the Cattle Market for the occasion.

A Conservative fête was held on Saturday at the Albert Palace, when the Lord Mayor and Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett were among the speakers. The Lord Mayor said if the Liberals were again placed in power Mr. Chamberlain would be the man to direct them. He knew his own mind, and Lord Hartington and Mr. Goschen did not—except that Lord Hartington was ready to eat any amount of dirt for the sake of patronage and the sweets of office. Mr. Chamberlain, when he made a statement, if it suited his purpose, would not take any pains to ascertain whether it was accurate or not; and he was quite ready to accept any foolish story upon imperfect evidence which might damage his opponents. They would have to decide between Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain. Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett said the second Midlothian address had been issued, and he confessed that it gave him a severe headache to read it through. It was prolix, prosy, and perfunctory, and the Radical party would not find it a very inspiriting battle-cry. Proceeding to refer to the progress of Mr. Chamberlain from town to town, the speaker was interrupted by cries of "Give us your policy." Their policy was perfectly well known, Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett replied, and it had been well summed up by the Lord Mayor. Criticising the programme of Mr. Chamberlain, he claimed the support of Radicals on the very subjects put forward by that statesman.

The Hon. Guy Dawnay addressed his constituents in the North Riding of Yorkshire on Saturday. The place was filled by an assemblage composed almost entirely of miners, who now acquire a vote for the first time in their lives, and who raised such continuous and discordant yells and shouts of disapproval that the speaker was, from that and similar causes, at times incoherent and his remarks disconnected. He commented on the difference between the sentiments of Lord Hartington and Mr. Chamberlain, and said Mr. Gladstone's recent manifesto did not disentangle the position, it being a melancholy production. The meeting ended with three cheers for Mr. Gladstone.

Mr. Chamberlain was on Saturday afternoon presented with the freedom of the burgh of Inverness and also a ring by Provost M'Andrew. Mr. Chamberlain, in reply, said he accepted the gift as a mark of personal regard, a recognition of the interest he felt in and the efforts he had made for improving the social condition of the Highland population. He insisted on the importance of local government over Imperial administration, but he deprecated centralisation. Local institutions afforded opportunity to patriotic citizens to be of service to those among whom they lived. He desired a great extension of local institutions, and if he had his way there would not be a single village in the country without separate and independent local authority. Mr. Chamberlain left Inverness at three o'clock for Birmingham.

Mr. Stanhope, M.P., President of the Board of Trade, spoke at a Conservative *fête* held at Ipswich on Saturday. In the course of his speech he said:—"There are some who say that a new factor has been introduced into our political life by the introduction to the franchise of the agricultural labourer. To my mind the great effect that that has hitherto produced has been the complete disintegration of the Liberal party. Divided, rent asunder as they are by internal division upon vital questions, they have only to agree upon successive compromises under the command and influence of a great name. Will it be so still? Well, so far as I can judge from reading that flabby, that pretentious, and that most misleading manifesto which was issued in the newspapers this morning, I cannot believe that it will be so. He said one or two things in that manifesto which will spread dismay among his Radical supporters. He disapproves of the disestablishment of the Church, he disapproves of free education, but as for the rest of it, when you approach any agricultural question his manifesto is vagueness itself. He has tried, in effect, to drift down the broad stream of uncertainty and vagueness—between the Scylla and Charybdis of 'Yes' or 'No.' But how will it be with the Radical party? Why, Mr. Chamberlain has already spoken. He has spoken to his fellow-countrymen with the address of Mr. Gladstone before him, and it is perfectly clear that he will have none of it. He still goes to the country with his own views, which he has been promulgating recently in the speeches before the country. The fact is that the Radical party intend to force the hand of their allies. They state perfectly openly and truly that if they are to gain the vote of the agricultural labourers—and to gain the vote of the agricultural labourers is essential to their success—they can only do so by unfurling before the poor and the landless the banner of public plunder." He was in favour of the system of allotments, but in order to make it successful thrift and savings must precede the grant of land. He hoped for a reform of county government and a new local authority, but without entrusting that raw and inexperienced authority with powers of unlimited speculation in land.

The Hon. James Lowther, M.P., on Monday evening, addressing a large meeting of the new electors in the Louth Division of Lincolnshire, at Saltfleetby, near Louth, said that very clear and distinct issues would be placed before the electors of this country when they were next called upon to record their votes. The great difficulty experienced by the Conservative party was in arriving at any satisfactory conclusion as to the policy with which they had to contend. Within the last day or two a ray of light had been shed upon the political sea. An important though somewhat lengthy document had been launched at their heads, characterised by the high-sounding title of a "manifesto," emanating from the ate Prime Minister. What was the attitude assumed by this great leader of the Liberal party, and what were the things he propounded? So far as he could read them in the midst of a mass of verbiage, they were left in precisely the same difficulty they were in before as to what was to be the policy of the Liberal party. It was true that Mr. Gladstone, having doubtless in his mind unpleasant recollections of the sobriquets and names which had been applied to those of his colleagues in the late Government who had failed to march with sufficient rapidity in the direction of communism and confiscation of property and land, was careful to say that he considered many questions would have to be dealt with in future; but he was also careful, so far as he was personally concerned, to avoid expressing more than a mere passing opinion with regard to a subject upon which he knew full well that some of his late colleagues and supporters held strong opinions. Under the heading of "land," particularly interesting as the question was, Mr. Gladstone had devoted comparatively few lines. Mr. Gladstone never was very strong on the subject, and his ideas, so far as he had been able to gather them, were of the crudest description. He had from time to time propounded theories with regard to land which had always lacked that power and authority which it was only right and candid to say were attached to his utterances on other subjects. What did Mr. Gladstone recommend with regard to land? His opinion was hazy in the extreme. It was perfectly well known to Mr. Gladstone that at the time he penned the manifesto one of his colleagues in the late Cabinet had propounded theories which went to the root of the very existence of private property in land. He was also aware that one of his colleagues, Lord Hartington, had openly and publicly repudiated the doctrines propounded by Mr. Chamberlain. But what had he to say to them on the subject? He told them that he was in favour of the simplification of the transfer of land. He might have devoted a few extra lines of his manifesto in order to point out that the late lamented Lord Cairns, who had devoted much attention to this subject, had succeeded in passing an Act of Parliament for the purpose of simplifying and facilitating the transfer and devolution of land. These were points upon which no difference of opinion was felt by persons of capacity and intelligence. He (Mr. Lowther) years ago advocated a complete liberation of land from all artificial trammels in respect to its transfer, but at the same time he had protested against the illogical and fallacious theories which would place property in land on a less secure basis than property of any other description. Mr. Gladstone had his most hearty concurrence in declaring that his desire was to maintain the freedom and liberty of bequest. Mr. Gladstone talked of land being subject to taxation both during the life and at the death of the owner of it, but he (Mr. Lowther) thought many would be of his opinion that land was already subject to a much greater amount of taxation, relatively speaking, than any other property. Among the great questions which were before the public at the present time was a question for which Mr. Chamberlain had made himself responsible as the author—namely, the question of the multiplication of the owners and occupiers of the soil. It was unnecessary for him to reiterate the opinion he had always held in favour of facilitating the ownership of land among the greatest number of Her Majesty's subjects that could profitably undertake it. The other day he read with considerable interest a scheme propounded by Mr. Jesse Collings, whose knowledge of agricultural matters appeared to be somewhat of a limited character; but he ventured to say that if Mr. Collings introduced his scheme into the Isle of Axholme or any other part of Lincolnshire it would not meet with very great enthusiasm. Mr. Chamberlain and his friends did not content themselves with saying that they were going to give the people the land for nothing. They knew the people of this country had a sense of honour and honesty and would revolt against such a dangerous doctrine, so they proposed that the land should be first acquitted by the ratepayers at a fair price, and that the local authority should let it out to the inhabitants of the district. In other words, any labouring man who wanted a bit of allotment ground would have to go to the public body, which, he presumed, would have its duty to discharge to those it represented, and would be compelled not only to ask, but to ensure payment of what Mr. Chamberlain describes as a fair rent, and therefore they would occupy land under conditions not very dissimilar to those by which land was occupied at the present time. Until land was relieved of some of the monstrous and unjust burdens which still pressed heavily upon it, no matter whether it was held in large or small quantities, it could never be made a paying concern.

Mr. Akers-Douglas, M.P., Political Secretary to the Treasury, delivered his opening address in the present electoral contest at Herne on Monday night, and referred at length to the land question. It was, he said, maintained by some speakers that the entire cause of the present unfortunate depression which hung over the agricultural community was the faulty nature of our existing land laws. That our land laws required a certain amount of amendment he readily admitted, and one of the first measures which he would like to see Parliament, whether composed of Liberals or Conservatives, proceed with was the cheapening of the transfer of land. That amendment was desired more by the Conservative party, who were chiefly identified with agriculture, than even it could be by the Liberal party. Politicians of all shades and positions agreed that the difficulties which were placed in the way of the transfer of land ought without further delay to be removed. He had had some experience in the matter himself. He had been the purchaser or the seller of several pieces of land, and he had found that the law's delays in transferring land and the various legal charges involved made transfer in many cases almost prohibitive. He remembered purchasing on one occasion a small outlying field, and actually the cost of investigation of title and transfer exceeded the purchase money which he had to give. But there were other causes of this depression. They were told that the land was in the hands of too few persons. That was an opinion in which he entirely concurred, and he was anxious, and always had been, that the land should be placed in the hands of a larger number of people than at present, because the more persons there were who held land the more votes there would be, he did not say for the Conservative party, but for the party of order, the constitutional party of the country. But he could not agree that the cause of the land being in so few hands was entirely owing to the laws of settlement and entail in this country. There were thousands of acres of land in England the owners of which would be ready to sell at once. The drawback was the want of buyers, and why? (A voice: "Because it is good for nothing." Laughter.) No doubt that hit the right nail on the head and confirmed his argument, which was that the existing depression in agriculture was due to those causes which prevented its finding its way into the hands of others who had money to invest. Why was it, with money to any extent lying in the hands of the bankers, that the capitalists and the holders of land desirous of selling could not be brought together? It was want of confidence caused by the action of the late Government in regard to land in Ireland, and also by the want of confidence engendered by the actions of certain politicians in this country at the present time as to the future of land in this country. He was frequently much amused at the views which were expressed by certain land reformers in England, in which they pronounced a desire that the working classes and others should possess land. To his certain knowledge there were thousands of acres in the neighbourhood of Birmingham which were going out of cultivation owing to the depression in agriculture. Why did not some friends at Birmingham, who were known to possess thousands of pounds, expend some money in buying this land, and in showing that a commercial man with plenty of money could indicate to the owners of land the way in which money should be spent in the improvement of landed property. With regard to the scheme for the nationalisation of the land, he should like to ask what were the methods by which that scheme could be carried out? The land must be acquired by the State, either by a process of confiscation or by a process of compensation. If by confiscation, they must remember that not only the wealthy owners of large estates would have to sacrifice their holdings to the State, but the working man, who by thrift or by means of building societies had acquired land on which his cottage stood, would also have to sacrifice that land. As to the process of compensation, he held that any general scheme for the nationalisation of the land would be abortive and impracticable. It would be impracticable because, in order to compensate the present owners at the ordinary rate of thirty years' purchase, it would require the expenditure of 2,000 millions. Then, supposing, for argument sake, the State had acquired the whole of the land, how was it to be distributed? Who was going to take the fertile pieces outside the towns near a market, and who was going to take the land on the top of a chalky hill or on the moors in Scotland? It must be let by favouritism or at its market value. If the latter, it would be let at a competition rent, and then what would be the difference between a man paying a competition rent to the State and paying a competition rent to a landlord? The only difference, as far as he could see, would be that the State, represented by the tax-gatherer, would probably require its money very much quicker than a landlord would. Supposing the land were let below its rent, the result would be that somebody would have to make up the deficiency, and that somebody would be the taxpayer. In reference to peasant proprietorship, he believed that, in certain localities and under certain conditions of climate, it could be carried out advantageously, but a general system of peasant proprietorship would be economically unsound. He was in favour himself of small holdings, as opposed to peasant proprietorship, where the circumstances of the case admitted of farms being divided. In cases where a considerable outlay was required to put up buildings, and the owner could not afford to spend it, he thought it would be desirable for the State to advance money at a low rate of interest.

Lord Carlingford presided at a meeting held at Radstock on Wednesday, in support of Mr. Lawrence J. Baker, the Liberal candidate for the Frome Division of Somersetshire. He said that the question to be decided by the new electorate was whether they desired to transfer political power to the Conservatives. He was unable to discover any inducement held out by Conservatives that would convince wavering Liberals, unattached politicians, or the new voters. Lord Randolph Churchill was the great tempter; but he proved too much, and it was not easy to determine what he promised or what his promises meant. He had promised to set matters right all round, promised a sort of Conservative millennium; but they might not care for such a millennium. He had searched in vain the speeches of other Conservative leaders, and also of local Conservative candidates, to find a single reason for entrusting them with political power.

Some correspondence has taken place between a Rugby gentleman and Lord Tollemache concerning a statement which appears to have been made originally by Mr. Jesse Collings, M.P., and has since been circulated throughout the country, to the effect that the noble Lord was not only in favour of the "Yeoman's Small Holdings and Allotments Bill, 1885," but was actually carrying out the details of the measure on his own estate. The following letter on the subject has been received from Lord Tollemache:—"*Helmingham Hall, Stonham, Suffolk, Sept.* 12, 1885.—Sir,—I beg to thank you for your letter. I disapprove of Mr. Jesse Collings's Bill, as I told the gentleman who kindly sent me a copy. The condition of the middle and labouring classes ought to have our first consideration. I cannot but think that the rights of landed proprietors, especially large proprietors, are now in a critical position, and can only be preserved for any length of time by a vast extension throughout the country of the allotment and small-holding system. By far the most effectual and satisfactory way of extending this system is by the voluntary action of the landlords; but if no decided movement takes place on their part in the matter, as a last resource, not only for the comfort and advantage of the middle and labouring classes, but for the protection of the just rights of landed property generally, the compulsory powers you allude to ought, in my opinion, to be adopted, accompanied by conditions, such as an ample notice being given to the owners of land, with powers of appeal, &c. My estates have been managed for many years as fully explained in the accompanying rules. A prudent tenant-farmer with capital will not, in these times, accept of a long lease binding him to a fixed rent; I therefore, some years ago, offered to my tenants what I termed 'Lease Notes,' of which I send you a copy. These notes most of my tenants, if not all, highly value. You will think them very one-sided, but they are not so in reality, for if a tenant wishes to leave his farm the sooner he takes his departure the better for the landlord. I believe I have now fully answered your letter. I still hope that compulsory powers may be altogether avoided.—I remain, Sir, yours faithfully, Tollemache."

Referring on Tuesday at Gateshead to the education question, Mr. Stanhope spoke of Mr. Chamberlain's declaration that the poor had been robbed of the endowments that were intended for their benefit, and his desire to reclaim for them charitable funds which had been diverted from their real object to the benefit of the middle classes. If the poor were being plundered, it was, Mr. Stanhope contended, being done under the Endowed Schools Act approved by the Liberals. Moreover, Mr. Chamberlain's colleagues had just introduced a Welsh Intermediate Education Bill, in which the main bulk of the money was to be found by taking the small endowments in the different villages throughout the country, many of which are wholly or partly for the benefit of the poor. Thus it was quite fair to rob a poor man in Wales, because he was already a pretty safe voter for the Radical party; but the agricultural labourer in England, whose vote had to be obtained, must be bought by the reversal of all the legislation of the last twenty years. By giving assistance to the foundation and support of schools, the Charity Commission had made it possible for the son of a peasant to obtain as good instruction as the son of a Peer, and for boys of ability to be furnished with the means of rising in life. Mr. Stanhope continued:—"What is the Conservative policy? In our foreign policy we shall be guided in all we do by a desire to maintain the unity of the Empire and to fulfil the duties which humanity and honour

demand of us. As to home affairs, the time has not yet come to formulate a programme; but I hope to see some steps taken in the direction of strengthening and reinvigorating local authorities in counties, not by the creation of land-jobbing corporations, but by entrusting, under proper restrictions, greater control to those who contribute funds, and by enabling them to meet their expenditure out of moneys not raised only from one description of property. But when they talk loosely of devolving upon local bodies, urban and rural, powers at present exercised by the Imperial Parliament, I should like to know what powers; for, except a certain control over the liquor traffic, no leading statesman has yet suggested what they should be. We shall endeavour to preserve in Ireland a fair impartial course, not looking to the right hand nor to the left, and maintaining law and order by all the means at our disposal. Notwithstanding the prediction of our enemies, the Conservatives will go to the polls a united party, and, united, we hope to win. We are not afraid of the contest, for we are satisfied that the more a man studies the history of the country and learns how our institutions have preserved us from the dangers and perturbations that have befallen less fortunate communities, the more certain he is to cast his vote for the party which inscribes upon its banner, 'Peace with honour abroad; order, prosperity, and contentment at home.'"

Mr. MONTAGUE COOKSON, candidate for Chelsea, writes to the *Daily News* to complain of the manner in which he has been treated by the *Record*. He says:—"In answer to the editor's inquiry, I stated that I was opposed to State Churches on principle, and that I considered the small minority of Churchmen in Wales would warrant the disestablishment of the Church there; but I plainly intimated that I was not at present prepared to disestablish the Church of England, and that on the question of disestablishment in Scotland I desired to wait until the Scotch had pronounced a more decided opinion. Upon this, the editor puts E. W. S. after my name, implying, I take it, that I am in favour of disestablishing the Church throughout Great Britain out of hand. Nothing can be more unfair or more fallacious than thus to thrust all forms of Liberalism into a bed of Procrustes in the hope of creating a political sensation by publishing a synoptical table. It is as if the captain of a ship, in noting up his log, were to use the letters E. W. S. N. only, and then ask a landsman to believe that the helmsman had steered by four points of the compass only instead of by thirty-two. If other candidates have been treated like myself, the *Record's* list is not so 'black' as it is painted, and certainly the conclusions sought to be drawn from it are absolutely worthless."

Sir W. HART DYKE, M.P., Chief Secretary for Ireland, speaking at a large gathering of Conservatives in the Public Hall, Sidcup, on Thursday evening, said that he had travelled from Ireland in order to be present at that meeting. His political opinions on most questions were not unknown to those whom he addressed; but it was right that any person seeking to represent a constituency in Parliament should take every opportunity of impressing his views upon those whom he desired to represent. Especially was this due from those who had been mixed up in public affairs so long as he had—something like twenty years. They had experience to fall back upon, and should in a sense be more responsible for their opinions than men who had not had such experience. His political opinions had been considerably altered and modified since he was first returned to Parliament, and so had the opinions of most men. He claimed that the Conservatives as a party had not only carried the Reform Act of 1867, but had also as a party had a large share in the new Act; and if the Conservatives claimed these things they must as practical men consider what the wants of the new voters were, and tell them directly what they agreed with and what they did not. Before passing on to general politics he would say a few words about the serious and vexed problem of what was most conducive to the welfare of Ireland. There was a state of things existing in that country for which he did not consider the Conservative party responsible. He had heard it said that the Conservatives when in Opposition had always been in favour of coercion and repressive measures for Ireland; but when in office they had set their faces against these measures. What the Conservatives had always pressed and striven for was a system of good government. The Conservatives were aware that while the Liberal Government was in office grave evils were springing up in Ireland. These evils, he might say, were aggravated by acknowledged dissensions in the Cabinet, which, as they all knew, resulted in some members seceding from the Government. Such a condition of affairs was calculated to bring about a most lamentable state of things, and this the Conservatives endeavoured to avert. They did not agree with the Government playing with Ireland as if she was a spoilt child, one day caressing her and the next day grinding her down. The Conservatives were blamed by some for freeing Ireland from the repressive Crimes Act. He himself thought that this blame was not deserved. There was, no doubt, a state of things in Ireland which they all deplored; and if one thing was deplorable more than another, it was what was termed boycotting, which destroyed the liberty of the people wherever it existed. This pernicious system had grown up under the Crimes Act. It was, no doubt, a very difficult thing to deal with, and the Government did not make light of it. At the same time, however, the Government intended to do all they could to do without repressive measures, and to put the ordinary laws into force in such a manner as to destroy, if possible, the evils which ought not to exist. It was, he contended, a great mistake for people in England to deal too lightly with questions which affected Ireland, and he warned them that unless Irish affairs were properly managed the country would be a source of trouble for all time. How Ireland should be governed was a perplexing problem, but the party he belonged to intended to leave nothing undone which they could do to solve it. The Conservatives fully understood that the problem was how to maintain the integrity and the unity of the Empire, and they believed that that could be done only by doing all in their power to bring back prosperity to Ireland. This would alone conduce to bring back capital into that country, and renew that good state of things which previously existed. Passing on to general politics, he criticised Mr. Gladstone's manifesto, which he condemned as being framed for the use of a special party, instead of being for the good of the nation. Everybody, he said, must deplore Mr. Gladstone's silence on the depression of agriculture; and to sum it up as a whole, he could only designate it as a huge plaster to bind together the scattered particles of the Liberal party.

LORD IDDESLEIGH IN SCOTLAND.

The Earl of Iddesleigh visited Aberdeen on Tuesday, and delivered two speeches. The noble Earl was entertained at luncheon by the Conservatives of the district, and in reply to the toast of "Her Majesty's Ministers" he referred to the prospects of the Conservative party in Scotland, remarking that they were of the brightest. Of Mr. Gladstone's manifesto he said that as a piece of statesmanship it was unworthy, but as a piece of party tactics it was one of the cleverest productions of one of the cleverest tacticians the century had seen. It was likened to an old umbrella, but to his mind it was more like the helmet of Don Quixote, composed of iron and pasteboard, which would not stand blows, and which, on being subjected to this treatment and giving way, was made up again; but Don Quixote was too prudent to try his sword upon it a second time. So with the manifesto. One was reminded of the story of the old lawyer who wrote three different hands. He wrote one hand which he and his clerk could read, one which he could read and not his clerk, and a third which neither one nor the other could read. There was a good deal in the manifesto which he defied Mr. Gladstone or his friends to interpret—leaving the public out altogether.

Addressing a public meeting held in the Music Hall in the evening, the noble Earl referred to the issue before the country at the general election as signifying the beginning of good or the beginning of evil. He deprecated the incitement of the passions of the people which had recently been indulged in, particularly with reference to property, declaring that class legislation, whatever section it benefited, would not tend to the happiness of the people. He proceeded:—

"I hope it will not offend many of his friends, because he is a man I speak of with considerable respect for his talents, but I hope it will not affront many of them—that it struck me when I read some of Mr. Chamberlain's speeches, and when I heard him expressing his admiration for those who taught that the lower and the working classes in this country were better off in the fifteenth century than they are now, that Mr. Chamberlain would have had considerable sympathy with that great popular leader John Cade, for he came forward with the most magnificent promises, about which the only misfortune was that he was not able to fulfil them. He came forward with a promise that if they would put him in power the three-hooped pot should have seven or ten hoops, that everybody should have the best of everything, that the land should all be in common, and that he himself would pasture his pony in Cheapside. I do not think myself that that is quite the sort of policy which would suit this country at the present time. If the people of England at the time of which Mr. Chamberlain speaks were very much better off than they are now, I should be very glad to think that they had had that happiness; but that does not prove that we ought to go back to their position. I suspect that if you were to compare all the conditions of life in those days with the conditions now, you would find that they were not so much to their advantage. There is one thing that I observe also in looking into Jack Cade's proceedings. There was one thing he set himself against generally, which Mr. Chamberlain did not notice, and that was education, and, above all, free education, or compulsory education. The people whom he hanged were those who taught little boys and set them copies. Being able to write one's own name was considered sufficient to send one to the gallows."

Mr. Chamberlain, it was true, was not the leader of the party, and a much abler man was; but, while acknowledging the great abilities of Mr. Gladstone, he was about the most dangerous statesman he knew. He agreed with Mr. Gladstone that there should be a reform of procedure in the House of Commons, but not in the spirit indicated by the late Premier. They should rather endeavour as far as possible to relieve the House of Commons of unnecessary work, the work that could be as well done elsewhere. He also agreed that there should be reform of local government, and on the question of the land he said:—

"If you are going to deal with the question of the land in the spirit of Mr. Chamberlain, when he comes forward and says that he is going to restore the labourer to the land I do not know what that means, unless it means a spirit and a system of plunder, and if it means a spirit and a system of plunder it will not stop short at the land. Nor do his doctrines stop short at the land. They apply to every sort of property and every description of wealth. When you speak to him of the laws of political economy, he says these are a convenient subterfuge for concealing the avarice of the wealthy classes. These are doctrines which will naturally have great weight, for they are plausibly put forward, with the working-classes, who are for the first time introduced to the suffrage. If they are told that they have two duties—one a duty to themselves to get as much as they can, and the other a duty to the party who, they say, gave them the vote—namely, to reward and keep them in power—if these are the simple doctrines and the whole duty of man presented to the working-classes of this country you may look out for very bad and difficult times."

He considered Mr. Gladstone's method of dealing with the question of Disestablishment very dangerous. If he was not to be their guide, to whom were they to turn for guidance? He complained of the vagueness of Mr. Gladstone's manifesto upon other questions, and resented the imputation that the previous Conservative Government were responsible for the late troubles in Egypt. It would be very much better on the part of the representatives of the Government if they took the bull by the horns, and said it was all done by Adam and Eve. The late Liberal Government took the course they did, not because the Conservatives had put them in a position in which nothing else could be done, but because they thought it a right and wise thing to do. Lord Iddesleigh concluded with some remarks on the general situation, and exhorted his hearers to defend the Constitution and maintain the unity of the Empire. An address from the Aberdeen Working Men's Association was subsequently presented to Lord Iddesleigh, who briefly replied.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN IN LAMBETH.

Mr. Chamberlain addressed a crowded meeting on Thursday night in the Victoria Theatre, Waterloo-road, the first of a series of demonstrations which it is intended to hold in London before the general election. Many Liberal members of Parliament were present. A tremendous crowd besieged the hall, unable to obtain admission; and Mr. Bradlaugh, M.P., Mr. Passmore Edwards, M.P., and several other gentlemen addressed sections of the overflow.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, having referred to the future Parliamentary influence of London, as numerically almost one-tenth of the House of Commons, declared his anticipation that London, like the great capitals of Europe, would prove the centre of Liberal feeling, and give authority and emphasis and definition to the most advanced opinion. Referring to cases of Liberal division, he deprecated the pressing of personal claims and individual ambition, and, pointing to the vital issues of the contest, counselled rival candidates to submit themselves to some such impartial tribunal as had been suggested by Mr. Morley, so as to secure the unity of the party. In criticising the Government, he contended that they had faithfully followed the policy indicated to them by the Radical party; their sole original act being the harmless eccentricity of appointing a Royal Commission of protectionists and fair-traders to inquire into the prevailing depression; while, instead of the vigorous foreign policy they promised, the young lions of the Tory party are roaring as gently as any sucking dove. Reviewing recent Conservative speeches, and accepting in good part Lord Iddesleigh's comparison of him to Mr. Jack Cade (who, he was inclined to think, was an ill-used and much misunderstood gentleman), Mr. Chamberlain concludes that the Conservative programme is exhausted. Passing from "those barren speeches," Mr. Chamberlain has a word for Mr. Goschen.

"Although Mr. Goschen sits behind us, he is very far behind, and I think that under any system of scientific classification he is rather to be described as a moderate Conservative than as a Liberal at all. He is, however, delighted with the manifesto which Mr. Gladstone has recently issued, and he is prepared to endorse and to support it. Well, in that lies the difference between Mr. Goschen and the Tories. He has a programme—it may be a limited one, but still one of great magnitude and importance. Mr. Goschen's position is perfectly consistent. He still takes his stand on the old Whig programme, and he will not listen to any plea for its enlargement. Well, I am inclined to think that the forces with which he is in conflict will be once more too strong for him, and that if he cannot honestly go with the stream the stream will pass him by, and he will be stranded on the beach. Now I wish very much that, instead of employing his great powers and his dialectical skill in confuting imaginary opponents and answering arguments which have never been adduced, he would have given his attention to the practical proposals which have recently been made, and shown us what is the solid objection to them."

Mr. Chamberlain proceeded to contend that there was no reason why he should not have welcomed cordially Mr. Gladstone's manifesto; and while accepting the four great reforms to which he gives prominence, still continue to press for those other reforms "which I believe are called for by the just expectations of the great majority of the population." These he again enumerated—a rearrangement of the incidence of taxation, "so as to secure equality of sacrifice amongst all classes of taxpayers," the freedom of elementary schools, and the granting to local representative authorities of compulsory power to acquire land at its fair value for public purposes, "and among these public purposes I have laid great stress upon the letting of land for allotments." He then made the following important personal declaration:—

"Those are the proposals, simple, moderate, and practical, which I have recently been propounding in the country, and which have earned for me from Lord Iddesleigh the title of 'Jack Cade,' and from less scrupulous opponents unmeasured abuse and misrepresentation. Whether they will be included in the programme of the Liberal party or not does not depend upon me. It does not depend upon any individual leader, however influential and highly placed he may be. It rests with the constituencies themselves and their representatives. If I am right, these views will find adequate expression, and they will receive due weight and attention from the party leaders. If I am disappointed, then my course is clear. I cannot press the views of the minority against the conclusions of the majority of the party; but it would be, on the other hand, dishonourable in me and lowering the high tone which ought to be conserved in public life if I, having committed myself personally, as I have done, to the expediency of these proposals, were to take my place in any Government which excluded them from its programme. In that case it will be my duty to stand aside, and to lend a loyal support to those who are carrying out reforms with which I agree, although they are unable to go with me a little further. The sacrifice will not be one of very great merit, for I have not found official life so free from care that I should be unwilling to fall back once more into the ranks, and into a humbler position, to lend what support I can to the common cause."

Mr. Chamberlain would not predict the result of the coming election; but "I have a firm faith," he said, "in the righteous instincts of the people; and I believe that a great democracy, free to express its aspirations and able to give force and authority to its behests, will recognise its obligations to all those members, and especially to those who stand most in need of its sympathy and support, and will grapple successfully with the problem which has baffled the most learned philosophers, which has eluded the grasp of the most distinguished statesmen—the solution of which remains as the highest and noblest object of a patriotic ambition."

SUPERSTITIONS OF YORKSHIRE FISHERFOLK.

A correspondent of the *Times*, writing from Staithes on the new electorate as represented by the fishers of Yorkshire, gives an account of the fishing industry in these parts, and incidentally speaks of the superstitions of the folk as follows:—

"The Staithes folk are imbued with all manner of quaint superstitions, which, whatever their origin, convey to-day no meaning and have no reason for their observance. They have a firm belief in witchcraft, but a debased form of witchcraft of the *gettatura* order, the witch being wholly unconscious of his or her power of evil. Until quite recently—and I am informed that by some of the older inhabitants the custom is still secretly maintained—it was customary, when a smack or coble had had a protracted run of ill-fortune, for the wives of the crew and owners of the boat to assemble at midnight and, in deep silence, to slay a pigeon, whose heart they extracted, stuck full of pins, and burned over a charcoal fire. While this operation was in process the unconscious witch would come to the door, dragged thither unwittingly by the irresistible potency of the charm, and the conspirators would then make her some propitiatory present.

"Again, it is of frequent occurrence that, after having caught nothing for many nights, the fishermen keep the first fish that comes into the boat and burn it on their return home as a sacrifice to the Fates. All four-footed animals are considered unlucky, but the most ill-omened of quadrupeds is the pig. If, when the men are putting their nets into the boats, the name of this innocent and succulent animal is by accident mentioned, they will always desist from their task and turn to some other occupation, hoping thus to avert the evil omen, and in many cases will renounce the day's expedition altogether, convinced that no good could come of it. The sight of a drowned dog or kitten, too, as he goes towards his coble, will always keep a Staithes fisherman at home; and, what is still more curious, if, as he walks to his boat, his lines on his head or a bundle of nets on his shoulder, he chances to meet face to face with a woman, be she even his own wife or daughter, he considers himself doomed to ill-luck. Thus, when a woman sees a man approaching her under these circumstances, she at once turns her back on him. If a fisher sends his son to fetch his big sea-boots, the bearer must be careful to carry them under his arm. Should he by inadvertence place them on his shoulder his father will inevitably refuse to put out to sea that day. An egg is deemed so unlucky that the fishermen will not even use the word, but call the produce of the fowl a roundabout; and, fearless as are the fishers in their daily juggling with the dangers of the sea, yet so fearful are they of nameless spirits and bogies, that I am assured I should be unable, in the whole fishing colony of Staithes, to find a volunteer who for a couple of sovereigns would walk by night to the neighbouring village of Hinderwell, a couple of miles distant. Prey as they are to unreasoning superstition, the Staithes fishermen are withal a pious and well-thinking people. Many of them—the majority, indeed—have gone over to Dissent, the primary cause for this inclination being, as in the case of the Durham pitmen, that the Church has left them greatly to themselves. There are in Staithes but few Roman Catholics—I have only been able to discover one, and this person is not a native of Staithes—though hard by, but a mile or two away, is a village whose inhabitants are nearly all Romanists.

"The Staithes folk care little for politics, and look forward, for the most part, to the ensuing elections merely as likely to afford them 'a bit of fun.' They have heard of Mr. Gladstone, though, perhaps, not of Lord Salisbury. They are familar also with the names of General Gordon and General Sir Herbert Stewart. The great majority of the fisherfolk care naught for political movements, save in so far as they may have immediately and tangibly affected their own welfare. Among a certain number of the waterside gossips the formation and opening of the Fisheries Exhibition in London two years ago is looked upon as being one of the finest episodes in the career of the late Ministry; and one old fisherman, expatiating on this great event, gave me a long and interesting account—well known by all his comrades, who prompted him when his breath failed—of his sojourn in London city, and how he, with 400 other fishers, 'dinnered with the Queen at Windsor under a glass shade.'

"In former days Staithes was always regarded as being bound hand and heart to the Liberal cause, but of late years there has been a gradual falling off in this allegiance of the place. On the occasion of the last contested election a larger number of Conservative votes were polled from Staithes than had been recorded on any previous occasion. No rabid agitators have thus far harried and worked upon the feelings of the fishermen, or sought to goad them into the belief that they are the trodden-down prop of the nation. There are no ranters, no Radicals even, in the little colony. There can be little doubt that if left to themselves the people of Staithes will give their votes to the man they know and like, and not to the representative of a party."

Prebendary Harry Jones, in view of the coming election, has reissued his paper entitled "The Church and Political Morality," in which he urges that the clergy should not lose the courage of their convictions at a crisis and endeavour "to make themselves pleasant to old women of both sexes, thus falling out of the ranks of men." He claims for electors the right to change or correct their political opinions.

The Archdeacon of Ely, the general secretary of the Church Congresses, proposes that at the forthcoming diocesan conferences the following resolution, passed at Ely in June, should be proposed:—"That this conference, believing that the Disestablishment of the Church of England, which from a period long anterior to the Conquest has remained an integral part of the national life, would be a dishonour to religion and to God, and that Disendowment would be an act of confiscation dangerous to all rights of property and injurious to the rights of the people, desires to express its earnest hope that at the ensuing general election Churchmen and all pious citizens will unite in pressing upon candidates the duty of firm resistance to any such changes in the relation of Church and State as are publicly advocated by the Liberation Society.'

THE LATE MASTER OF JESUS.

By the death of Dr. George Edward Corrie, Master of Jesus, the University of Cambridge has lost one of the very oldest of her members. He had outlived not only his contemporaries, but most of those who belonged to the three or four academic generations immediately succeeding him. He was a Fellow and Tutor of his College when John Stirling, Frederick Maurice, Richard Trench, Charles Buller, Mr. Spelding, and Lord Houghton were undergraduates. He had taken his degree before the Battle of Waterloo, was himself *in statu pupillari* when, in the year previous to his death, Pitt visited Cambridge, and had reached the threshold of middle life, when the Reform Bill, of which, as of most of the Liberal legislation that had followed it, he cordially disapproved, became law. His grandfather had fought in the battle of Culloden, and told him the story. He was deep in academical politics when the University was still divided between the Canningite supporters of Palmerston and the reactionary Tory partisans of Copley. That with the exception of Dr. Worsley, Master of Downing, and Dr. Phelps, Master of Sydney Sussex, he was the senior head of a Cambridge House, is comparatively nothing. When he was nominated by his great friend, Dr. Turner Bishop of Ely, to the post in the occupancy of which he has just died, he was already within three years of three score. It was generally expected that he would have been promoted to the presidency of the Society of which he was himself an *alumnus* some years earlier—on the death of Dr. Procter. But Mr. Philpott, since Bishop of Worcester, presented himself as a candidate, and his scholastic and academic distinctions united all suffrages. For the late Master of Jesus, who at the same time that he was inducted into that office received the valuable living of Newton, near Wisbech, was pre-eminent neither as a scholar nor a divine. He was a Wrangler, a scholarly writer, and possessed of no despicable amount of learning, theological, scientific, and antiquarian. Several volumes of his sermons, and various theological treatises, for the most part of a polemical kind, are extant. But their characteristics are devotion to the Church, ecclesiastical orthodoxy, and piety, an honest intolerance of Nonconformity, rather than profound erudition, research, or originality of view. Yet he was a true lover of books, and had acquired a library which contained not a few specimens of the *editio princeps* of valuable works. One of these is invested, for several reasons, with a historical interest. It is a "Portrait of a Whig Parson," about the time of Bishop Burnet, and so rare that the British Museum contains no copy of it. Macaulay, who had seen and studied it, quotes it in his *History* as corroborating his account of the Tory clergy of the Caroline era. A few months after Macaulay's volume containing the sketch and the reference had appeared, Mr. Babington, a resident Fellow of a Cambridge College, and a relative of Macaulay, wrote a pamphlet, based upon the precious tome in the possession of Dr. Corrie, and designed to show that the historian had been guilty of misrepresentation of the facts.

It is not likely—it is, indeed, in the nature of things impossible—that Cambridge should ever again see a Head of a House belonging to the same class as the late Dr. Corrie. He was the type of an order which belongs to the past. His views, prejudices, and convictions were formed under a condition of things that has long since ceased to exist. He was no longer young when the Test and Corporation Acts were repealed; and he lived to admit, as Master, a Nonconformist to a Fellowship. He had seen the entire face of University and Collegiate relations and management revolutionised, while he kept his position. Royal Commissions came and legislated and went, and he remained. Circumstances changed, but they produced no change in Dr. Corrie's opinions. He remained to the last a true specimen of the old-fashioned ecclesiastic, who had grown up in the atmosphere of Hanoverian Conservatism, religious and secular. He was a High Churchman of the most archaic sort. He presented a complete contrast to the High Churchmanship of which Oxford was beginning, fifty years ago, to be the home. The chief, if not the only, similarity between the High Church schools of the two Universities was their loyalty to ecclesiastical tradition. The attitude adopted by Cambridge High Churchmen of the stamp of the venerable nonagenarian who had just departed towards the Church of Rome was entirely different from that which the Oxford High Churchman consistently maintained. To Newman, Pusey, Hurrell, Froude, and others, the Roman Church was a branch of the true Catholic Church, if not, indeed, its parent stem—which had become blighted by false doctrines; and this view was set forth by the chief of the Oxford Movement in a well-known sonnet of great pathos and beauty. To Dr. Corrie, and those who thought with him, Romam Catholicism was a mischievous and modern variety of Nonconformity, and Roman Catholics were a peculiarly aggressive and contumacious sort of Dissenters. In his opinion on those points he may be said to have resembled High Churchmen of the type of Hugh Rose and Le Bas. Roman Catholics and Wesleyans were both disobedient to the Church, and from his point of view it mattered little what distinguished the disobedience of each. He declined to hold any commerce with either. Nonconformity was, in his eyes, an offence which poisoned the whole nature of those guilty of it, and and he would have probably refused his assent to the proposition that Dissenters could be as trustworthy in any of the relations of life as orthodox Anglicans. Dr. Corrie, indeed, regarded Nonconformity of every variety as involving the congenital iniquity which Socrates calls the "lie in the soul," and in support of this judgment he never had any difficulty in adducing countless passages from the works of the Fathers of the Reformation Theology.

As head of an academic House Dr. Corrie was seen to great disadvantage, and did not a little valuable work. Jesus College, Cambridge, owes much of its reputation to the energy, shrewdness, and tact with which he administered it. He thoroughly understood the art of dealing with tutors and undergraduates. He was conspicuously a man of affairs. Few men so dimly known outside the precincts of a University have exercised a wider indirect influence. He had a mastery of detail which, within the range of practical business, made him a formidable opponent or a most acceptable ally. Nor must we forget that to him the University owes the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, of which he was for many years the president, and to the literature of which he was a steady contributor. With great business capacity, he united much mother-wit and kindness. He was devoted to the interests of his College and of his University, and it may be said of many of his defects or peculiarities that they were the result not so much of personal character as of local association and influence.

In April, 1793, when Dr. Corrie was born, England was only just acting upon its resolution, taken three months before, to avenge in arms the execution of Louis XVI. Marat had not been assassinated, or Marie Antoinette been guillotined. A month later the future Earl Grey initiated his movement for Parliamentary reform, of which Dr. Corrie was to lament the success forty years afterwards. The whole of the French Revolution and its wars on the Continent of Europe, and almost a deeper revolution in politics, manners, wealth, society, and literature in these islands, divide, as if by a boundless ocean, the cradle of the late Master of Jesus from his deathbed. Measured by changes in thought and being, public and private, ages have passed; and the knell rung for him testifies that it is only the space of a single life.

THE THRESHOLD OF AUTUMN.

The heavy intermittent rains that have lately fallen, after a summer drought unusually prolonged, have already produced consequences that remind us that we are on the threshold of autumn. Though ever and again there is a certain warmth in the air of the "close" and almost muggy kind, there is a sensible decline in the temperature, more especially in the morning and towards sundown. Whether autumn may be said to have fairly begun or not, summer is unquestionably over. Once again, in walking round the garden, one is conscious of sights, takes notes of scents, and catches sounds that unmistakeably denote we are passing into another season. Here and there a lime is more than turning yellow, and there are Canadian thorns that have even now assumed the splendid garb of decay and desolation. From time to time a leaf flutters down; and every morning the gardener is out with broom and barrow, and is removing the signs of the declining year. It is all very well for the poet to declare, "Dead leaves are part of Nature's livery." So they are, and we should not, at this season of the year, think very highly of the poetic sensibilities of any one who did not feel it. But still, they conflict with the tidy ideas of a progressive century, and have to be swept out of sight. Every morning, now, whether the night has been clear or not, but more noticeably if it has bee bright and cloudless, the grass is dripping with moisture, and in the early hours has a coating of pearly grey. Sometimes it is a "gossamer-faced lawn," but always it betrays the advent of the autumn equinox. The bees are fewer and drowsier, and one of them will linger, with a fruitless pertinacity, upon the authers of a single dahlia in a manner that in the busy honey-making summer days would have been regarded as laziness, and have been reprobated by the entire hive at home as loitering. It is the wasps that have a fine time now. You flattered yourself that you had taken all their nests; but they are here, there, and everywhere. In vain you marked scores of their nests with a split stick and a piece of white paper, and went at night and suffocated or drowned them in their holes along the river or by the hedge bank. They are as plentiful as blackberries, and as ubiquitous. Cover up the peaches and the plums as carefully as you will, they will find their way under the muslin somehow; or, if they are baulked in that operation, they will eat through it and get at last at the juicy "Victorias," the "Pond's Seedlings," the "Belgian Blues," and, most of all, at the greengages. They make themselves stupid and sleepy, but not so stupid or sleepy but that they can give you a good sting if you molest them at their sugared and nectared feast. They will collect by the dozen inside a ripe Turkey fig, even when it is wrapped up in a bag, and will make themselves drunk with its delicious hydromel. They are the chartered libertines of early autumn, and seem to think the fat, fruitful season was made for their sole delectation.

In the more open spaces the rooks are heard continually, and the green woodpecker, wherever he is a denizen, makes himself more than ever noticed by his mocking note. The pastures are yellow with the little nibbling bennet; and, save in the middle of the day, are damp and cool to the feet. On the warmer soils the blackberries are ripening fast, and in counties that have not yet been invaded by that mania for trimness of which we have spoken, they are everywhere. They are too high for you to reach, even if you be on horseback, almost too low for you to bend over, even if you are on foot. They are in all shades and stages of ripeness, graduating from absolute green to absolute blackness. The temptation is great to gather them before they are ripe; but a blackberry, unless dead ripe, is the poorest of fruits, whereas when dead ripe, it is almost the best. If you be a perpetual peripatetic in the lanes, you will sometimes find the blackberry pretending to rival the orange, by having fruit and flower on the same stalk, and while with your hand you pluck the juicy berry, with your eye you admire and wonder at the bramble flower close to it. Here and there, too, a belated foxglove will pretend that it is July, and the honeysuckle will give itself all the airs of youth, and make believe, in a quaint sort of way, that it is the leafy month of June. These tender autumnal reminders of spring and summer are among the most dainty and delightful of Nature's manifold freaks. In among the blackberries a white convolvulus takes leave to intrude; and, in soils that encourage them, the Canterbury bells prolong the blossoming of the year. Such a nut year as the present one has rarely been known; and the hazels are covered with clusters, whose colour is difficult to define, since it shades off from light green to russet and orange. What in the world is pleasanter than to go nutting or blackberrying at the end of September? *Redeunt Saturnia regna.* That is the way to bring back the Golden Age. Let the plentifulness of the fruit be your guide; voice after voice exclaiming "Here!" "No, there!" "Oh, do look here!" So, led on, you may wander indefinitely through the Surrey lanes, filling your mouth, your hands, and finally your mugs and basket with the harvest of which you are in search. It is hot work, if done with zeal and enthusiasm. Children will pretend to pick; but children are arrant triflers, and cannot concentrate their attention on the business. Still, their presence lends an infinite charm to the process; and when gallons or bushels have been gathered, then they open their big eyes, and clap their little hands, and think it is they who have done it all. And then the mushrooms! This year the mushrooms were kept back by the long drought, and the colder weather is now rather against them. But on warm soils they have been coming up in battalions, and so quickly that, as folks say, you may almost see them "go off with a pop." Even where there are no mushrooms, or but few of them, there are toadstools and fungi, infinite in variety of shade, and colour and character—fairy-like, gigantic, grotesque, incredibly droll.

But perhaps the most beautiful of all the tributes of early autumn has yet to be named. What can match the colouring bracken, unless it be the reddening apples? Since May the orchards have cut but an indifferent figure. When once the bloom was shed nobody troubled himself to turn and look at the Codlings, the Biffins, the Irish Peach, the Blenheim Orange, the Lord Suffolk, the Hawthornden, and the rest of them. But now, once more, the orchard says, "Look at me! Am I not fair to behold?" The fruit has swelled and become conspicuous, and as the russet tinge spreads over it, it attracts attention to itself irresistibly. The time has hardly yet come for the ladders to be placed against the tall heavily-laden trees, or for the baskets to be piled up with juicy apples. But there are windfalls under every tree, and above a magnificent harvest rapidly ripening. In all the South of England the corn has been carried, and the rich-coloured shapely stacks are globes of light in the September air. Most of the hops, too, have been picked; and as you saunter along there come to you whiffs suggestive of the beer of the future from the lightly smoking oast-houses. The robin maintains his note, which has generally been described as cheery, but which we should be more disposed to call sedate; and blackbirds that have gorged themselves to repletion on everything good, occasionally, like a superannuated tenor, recite notes that remind one of spring. The wild clematis, the traveller's joy, no longer "lifts its gossamer weight on high." It is a poor skeleton of its former self. But the elderberries have grown lustrous, and adorn every hedge, side by side with the rich rubies of the honeysuckle, and the brilliant hips of the eglantine. The days, though growing sadly shorter, have their life prolonged by the harvest moon, which has arrived at full very near the autumn equinox, but still on the right side of it. There is, perhaps, no sweeter hour of the twenty-four than when you cannot say whether it still be day or night. The moon prolongs the twilight, and carries day into the later hours. All seasons are delightful in their turn to those who are familiar with them. "All seasons, and their change, all please alike"—or should do so to true lovers of Nature. But perhaps autumn gives the greatest amount of satisfaction. It seems like the end of a pleasant journey, which with spring will recommence. Shortly, we shall have to succumb to winter, and huddle round the fires which already are lighted to banish the gloom and damp of autumn evenings.—*Standard.*

VENICE.

Writing to the *Times* on the Venetian gondoliers, "Ouida" says:—"I am aware that in these times, when all minorities are sacrificed, no matter what their rights or wisdom, simply because they are minorities, it is almost useless to urge the claims of any class in opposition to that insane love of haste and innovation, however vulgar and unnecessary, which in our generation is universally supposed to mean progress. But the injury done to the gondoliers by the introduction of steam upon the canals of Venice seems so closely interwoven with the injury done to the city herself that they need not be dismissed as merely selfish or trivial in their complaints. The concession allotted to the so-called tramway-steamers is given for five years' time, of which three years have already elapsed. It is earnestly to be hoped that the concession will not be renewed. Leaving apart the æsthetic side of the matter, for it must be plain to the dullest mind how hideously unseemly are these dirty and ugly steamers beside the palaces of the Grand Canal, the peril to the foundations from the great wash of the waters caused by steam vessels is admitted by all competent to judge of such matters, while the deposit from their smoke and soot must in a few years' time dull and begrime the gem-like beauty of their façades as they do already pollute and obscure the air. Steam-tugs are also becoming dangerously numerous, and unless absolutely prohibited, or greatly restricted in numbers by a very high tax, will do endless mischief to the architecture, and ultimately close the canals to gondolas and rowing boats.

"Besides these tramway-steamers there are the steamers which go to and fro the Lido from sunrise to midnight and heave-to opposite the Schiavone and the Piazza di San Marco. These are many more in number than they need to be, and thanks to them this lovely island is not much better than Ramsgate or Rosherville. A very little care and good taste would make of the Lido a paradise; it has a fine beach of fine sand, meadows of the freshest, greenest grass, and superb trees, yet one side of it is given over to the soldiers and the other side to the brass bands, the sandwich papers, and the bathing machines, with which the ordinary mind of the ordinary cheap-tripper is accustomed to associate the sea. How long will the gondoliers be able to keep their slender black craft afloat if all their trade be taken from them? The work which will be found on the small canals will not suffice to maintain them, and unless restriction be put on steam traffic, it is to be feared that before many years shall have gone by the gondolas of rich private families will be the only ones seen on Venetian waters. The Venetians' true interests are more concerned in the preservation of this hardy race, who labour cheerfully in storm and sunshine, from dawn to midnight, for six francs a day, than in giving concessions to companies, to penny steamboats which will make the Ponte di Rialto as black as London-bridge and the Loredan Palace as insecure as an undermined cliff.

"There is nothing on earth equal to Venice, nothing like her anywhere: and one of the most wondrous of her charms is that marvellous opaline light, that jewel-like radiance of atmosphere, which floats over her silver seas, her balmy isles, her countless domes and spires. Is the greed of a handful of speculators, is the hurry of an unthinking and idle crowd, to be allowed to pollute that magical air, these divine skies? We who argue thus are always twitted with unpractical romantic useless feeling, with the sacrifice of the useful to the beautiful; but is it not far more unwise to sacrifice the labours of centuries, the triumphs of art, the matchless blessings of pure air and of clear skies, to the greed of a few, and to the clumsy inventions of the 19th century, which the 20th will cast aside with ridicule and disgust? It is certain that much might be done to restrain their evil results. A gasometer need not have been placed next to the beautiful cloistered garden and the grand church of San Francesco della Vigna, whose campanile is the first that the Venetian sailor coming from the East sees above the horizon to tell him he nears home. The most lovely island of Sant' Eleana, with its deserted convent, its rose-covered cloisters, its fragrant garden, need not have been taken by the Government for their ironworks, so that black chimneys belching forth black smoke over acres of bare clay is what first meets the eyes of the traveller who floats past the green trees of the public gardens on his way to the Lido, making an unseemly scar and blotch of ugliness at the very entrance upon one of the divinest scenes which the world can show. Already the trees of the public gardens, naturally so stately and luxuriant, are beginning to suffer from the near neighbourhood of these chimneys, while the bridge made to connect the foundry with the city is a cruel eyesore.

"Yet again, are all carvers of stone and builders of stone bridges dead throughout the land, that nothing but cast iron, that most hideous of all materials, can be found when and where a new bridge is needed in Italy? Cast iron! Good heavens! Is it not enough to make all the great dead who lie in SS. Giovanni e Paolo turn in their graves? Then the advertisements; the effects of many of the loveliest corners and finest views of the city are thus marred and made to resemble the vestibule of a railway station or the hoarding of a building plot.

"Some law which should compel the owners of furnaces to consume their own smoke is urgently needed; as it is, this smoke belches forth unchecked among the white marbles, the exquisite sculptures, the beautiful gardens, and does injury incalculable all over the city. The country around Venice and the islands in in her gulf are wonderfully fertile; the fruit and vegetables are of the finest, and the boats heaped with them are to be met with by scores by whoever goes on the lagoons towards Mazarbo or Tarcello, or crosses the marshes to Mestre. But if the smoke which issues from the chimneys of the city, from the glass-works of Murano, and from the funnels of lignite-fed Lido steamers be not put under some control, the agriculture of the isles will be ruined. Great writers on such subjects have of late demonstrated that Italy is essentially an agricultural country, and that all her chief interests lie in the fertile felds which she is too apt to neglect under the idea that manufactures and furnaces indicate a higher standard of progress. It has, I believe, been proved by an eminent writer that the ironworks of Venice can only end in a disastrous financial loss; be this as it will, the loss to art and nature from the stench and soot which come from the unwisely placed and wholly unregulated blast-chimneys which stand up all over Venice, befouling her brilliant air and radiant skies, can be judged and measured by the commonest observer. If some limit be not put to them, some measures of restraint be forced on them, the city, of which the exquisite clearness and colour have been the wonder and delight of the world, will, in a few years, be dull and gray with the deposit from burning coal and coke and lignite—begriming the delicate architecture, the white sculptures, the marvellous mosaics within the town, and the luminous atmosphere and transparent horizons of the lagoons without.

"In Venice, as in all other Italian cities, the people of it are but little consulted; a municipality, greedy and unwise, intent on petty present gains and indifferent to the future as to the past, award concessions right and left to foreign companies and hungry contractors, and care not how they may ruin nature and destroy art. There is one steam corn-mill on the Giudecca, so appallingly hideous that one wonders however human hands could have been found vile enough to build it there. This grinding mill is owned by an Englishman or American, and is the most offensive thing ever erected out of Manchester or Glasgow."

"Ouida" says nothing of the restorations of San Marco, because, not very long ago, specialists discussed this subject. But one does not need to be a specialist to suffer from the crude colour of the new mosaics. The palace of the doges is now under restoration, and one shudders to see the saw of the workman dividing and his chisel peeling the splendid sculptures and columns and arches.

Italy is pulling down and blackening with furnace soot half her noblest possessions all over the country. The destruction of historic gardens, such as the Ludovici in Rome, and the impending annihilation of the whole of the mediæval centres of Florence, are ill-compensated for by the present passion of tearing down sculptures, shrines, carvings, busts, from their natural places to thrust them away into the hard, uncongenial air of museums, where they lose all their charm and look desolate and exiled.

ALPINE CLIMBING IN 1885.

The Alpine season now drawing to a close, if not quite "the best on record," must certainly (remarks the *St. James's Gazette*) be counted among the best. From the beginning of July up to the third week in August the weather in most districts seems to have been all that climbers could desire. Ascents even of the more difficult peaks have been comparatively easy; and the Matterhorn has probably never succumbed so frequently to persons who ought never to have attempted the ascent. Now, however, it is the fashion to "do the Matterhorn;" and, considering the number of incompetent adventurers taken up by the guides, it is surprising that we hear of no accidents on the mountain. From time to time, however, whispers of wondrously narrow escapes do reach us, though the utmost care is taken to give them no publicity. It cannot be said in these days, when the

mountain is so thoroughly well known, that the ascent of the Matterhorn is dangerous in ordinary conditions of weather; but it is not an expedition to be recommended to inexperienced climbers, and that ought to be well understood.

Of special feats of climbing accomplished this season, three stand out pre-eminently: the ascent of the Meije from La Grave, the descent of the Eiger by the terrible Mitteleggi arête, and the first ascent of the Aiguille Blanche de Peuteret. The two former fell to German climbers, but the last can be claimed by a member of our own Alpine Club—Mr. King. With three guides—Ambrose Subersax, Aloys Antermatter, and a local man—Mr. King started from Courmayeur, and, passing the night on some rocks high up on the mountain, accomplished the ascent the next day. The expedition, however, occupied so much time that the party were compelled to sleep out for a second night, and did not get back to Courmayeur until the following morning. The climb itself seems to have been of greater length than difficulty; but we shall have to await the publication of the *Alpine Journal* for full details of it. It was in attempting the ascent of the Aiguille Blanche that the late Professor Balfour lost his life.

Some amusement was created a few weeks since by the announcement that the Dom de Mischabel had been ascended for the first time by a certain Mr. Carter; the ascent of this mountain, as a matter of fact, having first been made by the Rev. Ll. Davies, as long ago as 1859. Since then the Dom has often been ascended; and so many different routes have been found for the climb, that it is difficult to believe that even a variation of an old route can have been discovered. The usual line of ascent is by the Festi and Hohberg Glaciers—that taken by Mr. Davies; but the mountain has been climbed from the Nadeljoch by Messrs. Foster, Pendlebury, and C. Taylor; by the north-west face by Mr. F. P. Jackson and Mr. Percy W. Thomas; from the Domjoch by Messrs. Penhall and Conway; and by the east face by Messrs. A. and W. Puckle. It is possible that a variation of this latter route is what Mr. Carter has taken for a new ascent.

Unhappily, the season has not been free from accidents; but, excluding the fatal mishap to Mr. Devas, which can scarcely be called a climbing accident, our own fellow-countrymen have escaped. But climbers of every nationality must regret the loss of so distinguished a mountaineer as Dr. Emil Zsigmondy, killed in the Dauphiné by a fall over a precipice. Fatal accidents, too, occurred to an Italian on the Col du Géant, and to a French abbé and two guides on the Col des Courtes; the latter being an accident that certainly belongs to the category of those which should never have happened. To attempt, as did the abbé and his guides, to cut their way in bad weather up a steep ice-slope which even in fine weather has never yet been crossed—a slope, too, which was known to be dangerous from falling stones—was rashness such as no mountaineers should have been guilty of.

MR GLADSTONE AND EGYPT.

"A Twenty Years' Resident in Egypt" discusses Mr. Gladstone's Egyptian policy at great length in the *Times* of Thursday. "That portion of Mr. Gladstone's manifesto relating to Egypt," he says, "contains such extraordinary misappreciation of facts in the past and of their results in the future, that it is hardly possible to believe he would have affixed his name to such a statement, even as an electioneering address, had he not been writing in almost complete ignorance of the subject." The writer deals first with Mr. Gladstone's statement that "every step which we took in Egypt down to the time of the operations against Arabi Pasha in 1882 was the direct consequence of the agreement with France for reciprocal support and for the maintenance of native government." He points out that Mr. Gladstone was perfectly at liberty to withdraw from that engagement which he thought so dangerous; but that he did not do so because, in the existing state of public opinion, fulfilment of the lapsed engagement was the policy more likely to command a majority in the House of Commons. But, "even assuming that the policy of the preceding Cabinet was one by which he was irrevocably bound, can it be possible that he is so forgetful or ignorant of events immediately preceding the war as to attribute all disasters to the action of the Dual Control?"

"Does he not know that the two years from June, 1879, to June, 1881, were the most prosperous, the most orderly in the whole of Egypt's modern history; that the financial and administrative reforms then accomplished alone rendered possible the reforms that might be accomplished now; that during those two years the Government was able to encash its taxes, to pay its interest, and to show a surplus, without a sign of riot or even of discontent; that money was with difficulty placed at 6 per cent., and that the fellaheen already refer to that period as the 'good old times?' Does he not know that the revolt of Arabi, until we created it into a rebellion, was a mere military movement, and that the Ministry of War was the one Government Department not under European control? Above all, has he forgot that famous ultimatum which reopened in a manner equally offensive to the Sultan, the Khedive, and the people a question which was on the point of amicable settlement.

"Surely, out of respect for history, if for nothing else, it is time that we abandoned this ridiculous egend of the Dual Control being the cause of our military intervention. No amount of bungling in 1879 could have rendered necessary that fatal ultimatum of May, 1882, and that ultimatum alone rendered inevitable a recourse to the argument of shot and shell.

"And that argument, according to Mr. Gladstone, was employed for the following purposes:—1. Maintaining a native government. Where is it? Nubar, who is not an Egyptian but an Armenian, is the sole on-European who possesses the faintest shred of ower, except, indeed, that of obstruction. Has Mr. Gladstone yet to learn that a native government is mpossible? 2. Re-establishing the authority of the Khedive. Not even when Arabi had full licence was the Khedivial authority more completely a cipher. 3. Securing the peace of the country. At a moderate computation we have slain 12,000 Egyptian subjects. With such drastic remedies, it might be supposed that order reigned in Cairo, as in Warsaw. As a matter of fact, the interior of the country is more generally unsafe than at any period during the last twenty years. Brigandage was a term unknown in Egypt prior to our intervention. 4. The prosecution of all practical reforms. Admitting those reforms connected with irrigation and the doubtful measure of complete abolition of corporal punishment without substitution of any other, can Mr. Gladstone point to a single reform otherwise than on paper?"

The writer insists that "the responsibility for all the blunders he admits, for every event in the Soudan, for the entire Soudan campaigns, for the loss of life, which included such names as Hicks, Moncrieff, Morice, Earle, the two Stewarts, Power, and Gordon himself, rests wholly with that Ministry which refused the advice" pressed upon it "in October, 1882, by Sir E. Malet, by Sir Charles Wilson, by Colonel Watson, by every one who knew anything of the question." As for Mr. Gladstone's "earnest aspiration for an entire withdrawal from Egyptian territory at the earliest moment which honour will permit," he asks, "Have we not had enough of governing Egypt by earnest aspirations? and does Mr. Gladstone fail to see that this frequent announcement of his aspirations is precisely the best of all possible ways to render those aspirations unrealisable?" After remarking on the disastrous effect of Lord Hartington's forecast that we might be able to withdraw in six months, he proceeds:—

"I should like to state what I have not the smallest hesitation in saying would be the inevitable result of the withdrawal of British troops from Egypt at any period within the next ten years. I say, advisedly, that, apart from some few officials, I do not know a single European who would remain in the country one day after the withdrawal of the last English battalion (unless, of course, another European force took its place). The withdrawal from Egypt of all except, possibly, 2,000 Europeans would mean a complete cessation of all commerce, and would entail the ruin of two-thirds of the native population."

FREE EDUCATION.

The Rev. T. D. C. Morse, vicar of Christ Church, Newgate-street, and member of the London School Board, has addressed to the *Times* a letter on Free Schools, from which we make the following extracts:

"Free schools, it is said, have become necessary because our present educational system is full of inconsistencies and is productive of great injustice. Would a free school system remove all our present difficulties? The great sacrifice which the labouring classes have to make for the sake of their children's education is the loss of their earnings; and not the 1d. or 2d. a week for the school fees, which in all cases of real inability to pay is remitted by the School Board, or paid by the guardians. Would this loss be made good to them under the proposed system? Moreover, it would not be difficult to show that the desired change would aggravate an injustice which already exists to some extent. It is notorious that Elementary schools are often attended by children whose parents are well able to pay the full cost of their schooling. Is a man to pay for the instruction of his own children at a private or grammar school, and at the same time to contribute towards the cost of the education of his neighbour's children—in the same condition of life as himself—at the free school? 'If free education were conceded,' said Professor Fawcett, 'it would be impossible to restrict it to the working classes.' In the end, all education from the lowest to the highest must be made free. Is the nation prepared to take the first step towards this social revolution?

"In free schools, it is asserted, the percentage of attendance would be higher than in schools where fees are paid. This is a pure assumption. In this country we have had no experience of the working of free Elementary schools sufficient to warrant us in coming to any such conclusion. Under the existing law free schools cannot be established without the consent of the Education Department, which would be given only in special cases, and on the ground of the poverty of the inhabitants of the district. Any conclusion, therefore, drawn from such exceptional circumstances would be fallacious if extended to the whole country."

After quoting figures to show the best results of the free school system in the most advanced of the United States, he continues:—"What should we think of a yearly average attendance in our best schools ranging from 65·11 to 26·93? But in order to form a complete idea of the general state of elementary education in America we must not overlook the fact that at the last census, in 1880, the statistics of illiteracy showed that about one-third of those ten years and over, including, of course, a large number of coloured people and immigrants, could not read, and of native-born Americans of the same age that 2,225,000 out of 3,000,000 could not write (2,225,460 out of 3,019,080). In England and Wales during the year ending August 31, 1884, there were—on the school registers, 4,337,321; present on the day of inspection, 3,925,045; average daily attendance, 3,273,124. Of these, 90·78 scholars passed in reading, 82·42 in writing, and 77·53 in arithmetic; the general average attendance throughout the country being about 75 per cent. Though much improvement is still to be desired in our own school attendance, the foregoing statistics show conclusively that, whatever else free schools might do, they would not be likely to raise the standard either of attendance or of attainment. The American system which we are recommended to adopt was said twenty years ago by so competent an observer as Bishop Fraser (page 170) to be 'a cheap system—made cheap by reducing the time during which the school is kept open to the narrowest limit, by cutting down the salaries of the teachers to the lowest sum, and by neglecting to furnish the needful supplies of books and apparatus.' I shall be told, perhaps, that the establishment of free schools would be the fulfilment of a duty which the rich owe to the poor; in other words, that it would be, so to say, an act of restitution. Endowments intended for the poor, it is often said, have been diverted from their original object and used to create secondary schools for the middle classes. In this way the poor have been robbed of their inheritance. But Lord Colchester has told us that 'the object of the founders of grammar-schools was to give a liberal education to poor boys of special capacity which would enable them to rise to higher positions, to do service in Church and State. To apply these endowments to elementary education might reduce the rates, but would seldom fulfil the founders' intention.' Last year the education grant amounted to £3,110,912, while in 1883-4, in England alone, a further sum for school purposes of £2,089,664 was raised by rates. If there be any truth in this allegation, is not five millions a year a noble 'ransom?' Are those who make this assertion prepared to contend that money left to found free grammar-schools—that is, classical schools—ought now to be applied to establish free Elementary schools in addition to the sum provided by local and Imperial taxation?

"I am persuaded that many of those who talk so glibly about the advantages of free education can never have seriously counted the cost of the change they desire to make. Last year the total expenditure of Elementary schools, Board and Voluntary, was £6,131,886. As the cost of school maintenance in Board schools averaged throughout the country 7s. 1d. per head more than in Voluntary ones, if the latter were given up the increased cost of doing the same amount of work under an official system, with the number that will shortly be in attendance, would be about £1,000,000 more per annum. We may, therefore, say the total expenditure that would have to be met would be a little over £7,000,000. In London Voluntary schools the expenditure per scholar for school maintenance was £2 2s. 2d., and in London Board schools £2 14s. 6d. The income of all public Elementary schools last year was as follows:—

Endowment	£157,124	8	0
Other sources	64,921	16	1
School board rates	915,474	2	3
Voluntary contributions	734,127	12	10
School pence in Board and Voluntary schools	1,734,114	13	10
Government grant	2,515,776	2	6
	£6,121,538	15	6

"Some Radical politicians are in the habit of speaking as though schools might be made free by mere abolition of the fees received in Board schools, which last year amounted to £528,674. This is a very superficial view of the question. You could not say that the million of scholars in attendance at Board schools should go to school free, while the two million of scholars attending Voluntary schools should continue to pay. The unfairness of such a solution of the difficulty is too obvious to require comment. Either all public Elementary schools must be made free, or none. If our educational reformers should succeed in destroying the existing system and establishing free schools, they would find that they would soon require to draw from local or Imperial taxation about three millions and a half more per annum for school maintenance than is required at present. This deficiency would arise as follows:—

Loss of school pence	£1,734,114	0	0
Loss of voluntary contributions...	734,127	0	0
Extra cost of maintenance ...	1,000,000	0	0
	£3,468,241	0	0

"I have said nothing hitherto of the additional outlay that would be required for new school buildings. The following figures will enable any one to work this out for himself. At the present time the school accommodation is in Voluntary schools 3,336,564, and in Board Schools 1,490,174. I presume denominational schools would not be forcibly taken over by the State. I can hardly conceive that they would be handed over without without some compensation. The average cost of erecting Voluntary schools, with residences for the teachers, has been about £5 7s. per scholar, sites having been generally given. Board schools have cost about £12 5s., while in London, including sites, the average cost has been £17 3s. 2d. per school place."

The Rev. J. G. Nash, writing on the same subject to a contemporary, says:—

"It may be assumed that Voluntary schools could not co-exist with free education. First, the managers, on account of increased educational taxation, could not expect to receive the subscriptions of friends of Voluntary schools, which amount to £734,128. If they decided to continue their schools and charge fees, they would forfeit the Government grant of £1,667,510; and if they retained the grant they would have to surrender the school fees, amounting to £1,205,440.

"There are 1,121,964 scholars in regular attendance in Board schools, the total expenditure of which in 1884, according to the Blue-book, page 91, was £5,745,660. That is, each scholar in regular attendance cost on an average £5 2s. 5d.

"In the Voluntary schools there are 2,175,594 scholars. If they were transferred to Board school direction and educated at the present Board average of £5 2s. 5d., they would cost £11,140,854.

"In the next place, free education would involve the loss of £1,734,115 received last year in the following proportions:—Board schools, £528,675; and Voluntary schools, £1,205,440.

"The probable cost of free education may, therefore, be summarised:—

(*a*). Board schools educating 1,121,964 scholars in regular attendance at the average of £5 2s. 5d.	£5,745,660	
(*b*). Voluntary schools educating 2,175,594 scholars, transferred to Board direction and educated at the present Board average of £5 2s. 5d.	11,140,854	
(*c*). Loss of school fees	1,734,115	
	£18,620,629	

"How could this enormous amount of nearly £19,000,000 be met? If it were raised by local taxation, the Board rates would be increased 3 1-5th. That is, if they are at present (as they are in London) 10d. in the pound, they would be raised to 2s. 8d. Such a burden it would be next to impossible for the middle classes to bear. It might be proposed that as free education is a national question its cost should be added to the Imperial expenditure. But no Chancellor of the Exchequer could add £18,620,629 to the Budget. It has been suggested that the revenues of the Church of England should be confiscated and devoted to free education. But the estimated income is under £8,000,000. If, therefore, the whole amount, which includes pew-rents, fees, and recent endowments, were appropriated (which would be impossible), there would be still more than £10,600,000 to raise.

"It may be assumed that Radical candidates throughout the kingdom are pledged to free education. It is therefore to be hoped that Liberal electors who have no wish to add to the already heavy burden of taxation will rise above party, and vote for those candidates who are prepared to uphold the present system of voluntary education, and thus save the country from an increased expenditure of many millions of pounds."

AMERICAN EDUCATION AND POLITICS.

An American correspondent of the *Times* observes that the admirable organisation of the Civil Service in England renders it impossible that office-holding should become the instrument of corruption and emolument to the extent that it is in America; but if the popular voice should at any time insist on the payment of members of Parliament, there will be an approximation to the condition which now obtains in the United States, which is in general not envied by Englishmen. This is subjection to the control of what are in political slang known as "bosses"—the pothouse politicians who study the passions of the masses, and obtain such power that practically the so-called American democracy is an oligarchy, the control of which seems to be every year passing into the hands of a smaller number of "upper bosses."

This condition of things is prepared by the character of popular education in the United States, where the masses control their own education, which only goes as far as the eyes of the labouring man can trace its utility. In the common-school education of the States there is nothing taught that is not directly available in making money, and this central idea remains to a great extent the motive of the higher education when there is any higher education. The farm-boy goes to the "district school" to learn to write, cipher, and spell correctly, and knows geography as a useful branch of study, because he does not mean always to remain on a farm; he looks forward, if he is a little ambitious, with any possible sacrifice, to "go to college"—*i.e.*, get a University education in one of the numerous Universities. These are in their organisation purely utilitarian, every classical author and even the languages, every branch of higher mathematics or study which may have interested him in the University, is dropped as if it had been a clog the moment he has entered his professional life. All that is not directly operative in getting him ahead in the world is henceforward ignored. It is not too much to say that in no country where education is general is there nearly so small a proportion of scholars and thinkers of the whole number who attain what may be broadly called University advantages.

The general result of this condition of things is that the newspaper becomes the arbiter of the higher education of Americans, as being the channel of all that information which is of the greatest utility, and at once the cheapest and most easily got at by men who are too busy to think of mental improvement for its own sake.

Among the leading papers it will be seen that anything like earnest and honest examination of any branch of political economy is unknown in them. The average American is a very clever man, but he does not reason; he only reads a newspaper, and is not careful to select the fairest and most impartially conducted, but that which is the organ of his party and of his "boss." The number of newspapers in the States is enormous, but with half a dozen exceptions the matter they furnish their readers is singularly destitute of interest to a student of politics or intellectual life, and those exceptions are poorly patronised. It is easy to see, then, that American education, of which citizens of the United States are so proud, is really, taken as a complete result, below that of England, Germany, or France; for it is not the Common School education of the masses which controls the destinies of a State for good, but the aggregate of higher education and the weight of intelligence brought to bear on questions of legislation by legislators who have qualified themselves to deal with them. In the United States there is no such class large enough or influential enough to weigh in the political scales, and this influence is assumed by the political newspapers, which being almost always intensely partisan, and only supported as such, exclude all leaven of scientific statesmanship and all theoretical considerations. The only men who have any weight as practical men are working politicians, who can manage elections.

The prevalence of these narrow and partisan views and narrower personal interests in Congress has reached a point at which legislation on any important matter has become almost impossible. It is still a question whether the form of Government developed in the United States is a success or not, and it remains to be seen if in England, with the new constituencies, the moral weight of the political economists who have so powerfully influenced English legislation under the old *régime* will retain the respect of the less educated—a consummation devoutly to be hoped for; for the alternative of imitation of the American democracy is not recommended by example. Let nobody be deluded by a national prosperity due to natural causes into a belief that the United States owe their progress to their government, and that that form of government would, under different conditions, produce similar prosperity.

[There is much in what is here stated that is true enough; but it is not the whole truth. The worst feature of the Common School system is its godlessness—a point alluded to at some length by a Canadian correspondent whose letter will be found in another part of our issue.—ED. *J. B.*]

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JOHN BULL.

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 26.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

Public attention has been diverted this week by the events in Roumelia from the dispute between Spain and Germany, and there is little to report as to it. That little is on the whole favourable to the prospects of peace. Despite Stock Exchange rumours of risings on the frontier, King ALPHONSO is holding his own, and the longer that he is able to keep in check the impetuous eagerness of the populace to wipe out the stain on Spanish honour which they fancy to have been inflicted by the German occupation of the Caroline Islands, the better chance there is of moderate counsels prevailing with the nation as well as with the KING. Among the latest suggestions for the solution of the difficulty is the mediation of the POPE, and though at first we could hardly suppose that this was seriously put forward, it might be easier for the Spanish Government to procure the acquiescence of the people in a decision of the HOLY FATHER than of any less infallible arbitrator. For we must assume the decision will be against Spain on the merits, especially when we have regard to the admission of Senor CANOVA made long since to Mr. LAYARD. But though the technical merits may be against the Spanish contention, there has undoubtedly been an informal and unadmitted idea of possession of the Caroline Islands by that country among the few persons who thought anything about them, which renders it as hard for the Spaniards to give them up as it was for MRS. BURRY and her friends to abandon their supposed rights in Milk Fair at the bidding of the RANGER. The minor question of the attack on the German Embassy, with which that of the Caroline Islands was complicated, may be regarded as at an end. Prince BISMARCK has accepted the Spanish note of apology, and the rioters have been proceeded against in the Spanish Courts, which is the most satisfactory way of dealing with so unpleasant an incident.

The re-covering of the old umbrella has been the main topic of interest as regards home politics during the past week, and Mr. GLADSTONE'S Manifesto has been discussed, not only in this country but also in the foreign press, to an extent which must satisfy even the anxious craving for notoriety of the Grand Old Man. He must, however, feel rather annoyed with his Roumelian *protégés* for having drawn off a portion of the interest of Europe from the enunciation of his views. The criticism to which that enunciation has been exposed has naturally been of a varied character, according to the quarter from which it proceeds, the only general point of agreement being that the Manifesto is very long. Both Mr. CHAMBERLAIN and Mr. GOSCHEN have declared themselves satisfied with it, which testifies to the successful accomplishment by the late PREMIER of one of those *tours de force* for which he is distinguished. No man can beat him in an exposition of policy which is capable of being read different ways, according to the disposition of the reader, and of being finally explained in a totally different way from any in which it has been read. At the first blush it would seem as if it were framed on the lines laid down by Lord HARTINGTON; when more carefully studied we can read between those lines encouragement to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. It will be amply sufficient for Liberal candidates when asked as to their profession of faith to appeal to Mr. GLADSTONE'S Manifesto as embodying their views, for they will be able, when addressing the left wing of their constituents, to read it in its inner meaning, and when addressing the right wing to point out its more obvious interpretation. But as regards Mr. GLADSTONE himself, it remains an interesting problem which side of the shield he himself regards in his inner consciousness.

To our mind the keynote of the Manifesto in this respect is his announced inability to withdraw from the contest before "the "acquittal or condemnation which is about to "be pronounced." This introduces just that personal element into the matter which is required in order to excite popular fervour and to urge on Mr. GLADSTONE to a vigorous electioneering campaign. It augurs no little courage on his part to put the question on this footing. But he knows by experience how short are the memories of Liberal electors, and how a few bold words and not a few judicious misrepresentations will efface from those memories the most degrading and humiliating incidents, the most fatal and ridiculous blunders. *L'audace, l'audace, toujours l'audace* is his motto, and he appeals proudly to the memory of the dead who lie thick upon Majuba Hill and to the unknown grave of the great English leader at Khartoum as his credentials to the new electorate. To those who have in any way followed the history of the miserable years of GLADSTONE misrule as they actually were, not as they are now painted with the facile brush of the skilful artist, it might seem almost madness for the late PRIME MINISTER to stake the prospects of the Liberal party on the verdict which the country will pass on the events of those years. It is a battle-ground on which there ought to be no difficulty in defeating him if the issue were fairly fought out and properly understood. The mere pronouncing of GORDON'S name ought to be sufficient to ensure a verdict of condemnation, a mere glance at the position in the world to which England under Mr. GLADSTONE was reduced should render even "extenuating circum-"stances" inadmissible. It will be all the more necessary to meet him on this his chosen battle-ground by that process of "pegging away" which has been so ably advocated by the *St. James's Gazette*. Conservative candidates must not shrink from an iteration of the shameful story of the last few years which may seem to themselves wearisome and unnecessary. If the true aspect of that story could but be brought home to the electors, there would be no shadow of doubt as to the verdict—no possibility of the author of so much mischief being called upon "to "repeat in a new Parliament anything like "the labours of the old one."

But the adoption of this battle-field by Mr. GLADSTONE has a further and a peculiar significance which cannot be overlooked. Conceding that the only question to be placed before the electors is one which resembles an abstract resolution debated at the Oxford Union, that in the opinion of this country Mr. GLADSTONE has deserved well of it, and assuming that by a sufficient amount of ingenious misrespresentation such a resolution should be carried by a majority at the polling-booths, what is to come next? If a Liberal majority is to be returned only to whitewash Mr. GLADSTONE, what is to be done when the whitewashing is over? If the whitewashed one then makes his bow and retires, who is to step into his place? A House of

Commons elected solely to secure the supremacy of one man can never be regarded with favour except by those who persistently set men above measures. But it is far worse when the man to obey whose mandate and carry out whose policy the majority is returned announces beforehand that all he requires is acquittal or condemnation, and, that acquittal once obtained, he no longer aspires to do the work of a leader. Is he by a political will and testament to bequeath his authority to such one of his followers as he shall consider best fitted and most in accord with his own views; or is his authority to be scrambled for, and divided, like that of ALEXANDER the Great, among his generals? If the former, the constituencies ought to be taken into his confidence, and to be told whether an AMURATH an AMURATH is to succeed, or HARRY HARRY. The very fact of the personal character which Mr. GLADSTONE would impress upon the election renders it hardly possible for him to bequeath his power, and we cannot have another General Election immediately to settle the claims of the rival heirs-presumptive. The struggle between old Liberalism and new Radicalism must come, and though it may suit Mr. GLADSTONE to postpone it till after his acquittal, it is not in the interests of the country that the two discordant elements of which the Opposition is composed should unite to turn out the Conservatives, and then fall to quarrel over the spoil. The Moderate Liberals should remember that they owe a duty to their country as well as to Mr. GLADSTONE, and that England has other interests than those involved in the attempt to anticipate the verdict of history on his last term of office.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S avowed satisfaction with the Manifesto has not prevented his putting forward his claim to be adopted as the heir of the GLADSTONE Empire in opposition to the other heir, and emphasising that claim by the announcement that he will not form part of any Administration which adopts a more moderate programme than that which he has himself laid down. Free Education, at the expense of the ratepayers, and to the destruction of all Voluntary schools and all religious teaching, confiscation of property in general under the euphemism of a change in the incidence of taxation, and confiscation of landed property in special under a variety of forms, are the main features in that programme; and it is because he finds no reproduction of these cardinal points in Mr. GLADSTONE'S circular that he honours it with his approval, thus confirming the view which we have already expressed of what Sir WILLIAM DYKE has happily called the "porous" character of the Manifesto. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S emphatic language is a direct challenge to Lord HARTINGTON, and though that rival heir has too often, "vowing he would ne'er consent, "consented," we trust that he may have sufficient strength of mind to refuse to accept Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S ultimatum. It is not a question on his part of "personal claims and "individual ambition," but of personal honour and individual consistency. He will forfeit reputation for both if he allows the Right Honourable JOSEPH'S game of brag to be again successful. The member for Birmingham has pretty plainly intimated that he, at all events, has no intention of making conces ions to secure the unity of the great Liberal party, and it was a clever piece of tactics to be the first to proclaim the Liberal party *c'est moi*. What response will the other King of BRENTFORD make? Will he be content to smell at the nosegay which his brother King has provided without having any voice in the selection of the flowers of which it is composed? This is a question to be pondered over by Moderate Liberals, and, whichever way it is answered, should make them pause before going solid for Mr. GLADSTONE until the verdict of acquittal, and for Mr. CHAMBERLAIN after the verdict has been obtained.

Lord IDDESLEIGH is a man of moderation, and accustomed to weigh his words. This lends the more importance to his deliberately-expressed opinion when he does speak out, as he did at Aberdeen; and his denunciation of the want of statesmanship and his admiration of the tactical cleverness shown in the Manifesto are alike significant. Nor must we omit to notice that, despite his old friendship and former intimate connection with Mr. GLADSTONE throughout his career—which in the opinion of some critics has done so much to paralyse his energy as an Opposition leader—he does not hesitate to pronounce his old friend and master to be about the most dangerous statesman whom he knows. His quotation from the famous ballad of Sir PATRICK SPENS was very happy, and the sight of the new moon, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, with the old moon, Mr. GLADSTONE, in his lap should certainly prepare us to look out for squally weather. A timely protest against the old moon's impatience of the rights of minorities, and an emphatic condemnation of the new moon's spirit and system of plunder led up to a vigorous and effective peroration, in which the cosmopolitan views of the friends of every country save their own were effectively combated. By his special reference to the "respect "of our own colonies" as one of the objects to be desired by English statesmen, Lord IDDESLEIGH obliquely, but none the less emphatically, called attention to the singular reticence with regard to the colonies observed by Mr. GLADSTONE, which shows once more the inability of the late PREMIER to realise the duties of England towards her children across the sea, and the proud part which she occupies as a mother of nations.

The Socialists are very indignant with Mr. SAUNDERS for not allowing them to obstruct thoroughfares at their will, and a strenuous attempt has been made to pervert his simple discharge of his magisterial duties into a fanatical crusade against freedom of speech. It must be acknowledged that the special facilities of late accorded at the West-end to Hyde-park demonstrations, whether directed against one branch of the Legislature or in support of the publication broadcast of obscenity, contrast somewhat with the action of the police in the East-end. Nor can the immunity with which the Salvation Army has been allowed to impede traffic and make the streets unbearable to quiet people fail to be thrown in the teeth of the authorities when they do wake up to the existence of a law against obstructing thoroughfares, and the necessity of enforcing that law even when the obstruction is caused by humble imitators of Mr. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN. The action of the police is *primâ facie* reasonable, and the fact that other people have broken the law with impunity does not justify Dr. AVELING and his friends in continuing to do so when they have been called upon to desist, and after a magisterial decision that the place which they have selected for their meetings is not one where such meetings can be held without constituting a nuisance. Of course, if they can show an unfairness in the treatment to which they have been subjected, or any special animus shown by the police, the question will assume a different footing. But at present they are in the position of lawbreakers, and they will not improve that position by breaking the law on a larger scale, as they propose to do, by holding a mass meeting at the prohibited spot. Meanwhile the many admirers of the *Earthly Paradise* must feel their regret that the author of it has given up poetry for politics increased by the line which Mr. MORRIS has taken. The "idle singer of an empty "day" has shown his sympathy with the idle talkers of a crowded thoroughfare by attending at the police-court and giving audible expression to his feelings at the magisterial decision. Surely anyone in Mr. MORRIS'S position ought to know better than to cry out "Shame" in a court of justice, and though the magistrate had the good sense to accord to the very improper conduct an amnesty of disdain, it is probable that, like VICTOR HUGO, the English poet would have preferred martyrdom to the consciousness that his poetic fame had not penetrated so far as Mr. SAUNDERS.

THE REVOLT IN ROUMELIA.

While Mr. GLADSTONE was putting forward as the be-all and end-all of the foreign policy of England, the cherishing of "the infant "liberties established in the East," one of those liberties was taking the opportunity to make itself troublesome to the peace of Europe. Bulgaria has before now made itself so useful to Mr. GLADSTONE that the coincidence between his Manifesto and that of Prince ALEXANDER might almost have seemed something more than accidental. At all events, it comes in very conveniently for a statesman who cares less for his country than for himself, and, however much the rest of the world may deplore a reopening of the Eastern Question, it will be regarded by him as a good electioneering subject, which will afford him an opportunity of arousing that "popular fervour" of which we have heard so much lately, and also enable him to attack the dead statesman of whose fame he is so envious, and the living statesman who has had the audacity to carry on the QUEEN'S Government when Mr. GLADSTONE thought to bring it to a deadlock by resigning. The association of the names of Lord BEACONSFIELD and of Lord SALISBURY with the Treaty of Berlin is a sufficient explanation of the unpatriotic joy with which the Radicals have welcomed the attempt of the Prince of BULGARIA to tear up that treaty. His scheme was laid with great skill, and the impending Pan-Bulgarian movement was not allowed to leak out till the unification could be announced to the world as an accomplished fact. The PRINCE'S own defence of his share in it is that if he had not consented to put himself at the head of the movement, and take possession of the territory on the other side of the Balkans, he would himself have been the first victim, and would have been ignominously expelled from his own dominions. This may perhaps be true, but it is probable that he did not require much pressure to induce him to take the lead in this bold stroke for a kingdom.

Whether Prince ALEXANDER was acting with the connivance and sanction of Russia is more doubtful. At first sight it seemed probable that the rising had been arranged at St. Petersburg, and that Russian statesmen were only too ready to get rid of the modifications which the Treaty of Berlin had compelled them to make in their original scheme as planned at San Stefano. A united Bulgaria under Russian influence would be, as Lord BEACONSFIELD had foreseen, a standing menace to Constantinople, and the importance to Turkey of her being in a position to maintain her line of defence upon the Balkans is plain to everybody except Mr. GLADSTONE and the Editor of the *Daily News*. Is there any reason, then, to doubt Russian complicity in the movement? We, of course, attach no importance to the official denials from St. Petersburg or to the recall of Prince CANTACUZENE and the refusal to allow Russian officers to volunteer for Roumelia. All this we have had before, and have learned to estimate at its proper value. But there really appear to be more substantial grounds for doubting whether the present reopening of the Eastern Question is really the work of Mr. GLADSTONE'S good friends in Russia. For the real leaders of the movement who have set Prince ALEXANDER in motion are no friends of Russia; and the PRINCE'S position, if he succeeds in carrying out his scheme, will be very different from what it would have been if he had been placed at the head of a united Bulgaria avowedly under Russian protection six years ago. The interval of breathing-time for which, if for nothing else, we should respect the Treaty of Berlin, has wrought a change both in the PRINCE and his subjects, and they will not now be content to be mere Russian catspaws, but aspire to an independent existence.

We are not of the number of those who regard Treaties as so much waste paper, and would insist if it were possible on the maintenance of the arrangement come to at Berlin. This can, however, only be effected by the loyal and cordial co-operation of all parties to that arrangement. Failing that, it will be necessary for the English Ministry to do their utmost to secure the great object of that Treaty, which was to prevent the possibility of the seizure of Constantinople by a Russian *coup de main*. It may be necessary in order to secure that object to acquiesce in the creation of a buffer State, not a mere Russian dependency, or, without going so far as recognising an independent Bulgaria, to take advantage of the present feeling of the leaders of the movement that their true interests do not connect them with St. Petersburg. Prince ALEXANDER has at present shown a desire to come to an understanding with the Porte, and not to make a rejection of the Turkish suzerainty part of his programme. This may only be due to a prudent desire to represent that programme to the Great Powers as not altogether inconsistent with the provisions of an existing treaty which all the Powers are bound to maintain. But many of those who have studied the question most deeply are convinced that this is not the only reason for the moderation in this respect which has characterised the PRINCE'S conduct, and do not despair of some *modus vivendi* between him and the Porte being arrived at, which, next to the re-establishment of the *status quo*, may be the best protection of the City on the Bosphorus from the grasping ambition of the heirs of PETER the Great.

THE UMBRELLA IN TATTERS.

It will have occurred to many readers besides Lord IDDESLEIGH, on perusing over again Mr. GLADSTONE'S vague and verbose Manifesto—far exceeding in wordiness even what Mr. DISRAELI designated the "prolix" manifesto of 1874—that it is at least as remarkable for what it excludes as for what it contains. Lord IDDESLEIGH reiterates concerning Mr. GLADSTONE the opinion which Lord BEACONSFIELD is known to have expressed, that he is the most consummately clever of political tacticians. In the present instance his cleverness has been illustrated by the fact that his utterances have satisfied both of the great sections of the Liberal party. The timid and the moderate among them, as Lord IDDESLEIGH observes, are delighted with the moderation of tone with which a Statesman enjoying so large an experience, so great resources, so wide an influence, handles the various topics of his address. The Advanced school, on the other hand, are gratified that he should lead them a little way in the path of Revolution, and look forward to his soon leaving them in sole possession of the Liberal inheritance. The greater questions of the day, those which are in all men's thoughts—such topics as those of the Land and the Church—Mr. GLADSTONE is careful to evade as much as possible, although a careful scrutiny of what he did say with regard to at least one of them—the Disestablishment of the Church—is suggestive enough, as we have noted in another leading article this week. On both of these two important matters Mr. GLADSTONE has left the country without any distinct information of the way in which he desires to see them settled. Lord IDDESLEIGH has justly condemned, in language by no means stronger than the occasion deserves, such a way of dealing with questions of this sort. That one who occupies the powerful position of Mr. GLADSTONE, and upon whom, whether he is in or out of office, so vast a responsibility for the conduct of public affairs rests—one who has gone through fifty years of public life, and who must have formed opinions upon all the great questions of the day—should leave these all-important issues as to the Church and the Land to be solved by others, without clearly stating his opinion upon them, is indeed a most dangerous as well as a most unfair proceeding.

As we have said, we do not discuss here Mr. GLADSTONE'S guarded references to the Church. Of the four points which Mr. GLADSTONE thrusts to the front, that relating to the Land is ranked third, although, as Lord IDDESLEIGH remarks, its importance entitled it to preference before the other three. If the doctrines put forward by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN—who accepts, almost with alacrity, Lord IDDESLEIGH'S description of him as the modern JACK CADE—represent the policy of the party of which Mr. GLADSTONE is the leader, then Mr. GLADSTONE'S followers are committed to a vast Revolution. Lord IDDESLEIGH once more pointed out that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S programme does not affect landed property alone. It is a question of all property. Every class of property, every description of wealth, is menaced by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN and the Radicals; and the poorer (who are also the more numerous) classes are taught that they have only two duties to perform—one, to get as much as they can for themselves; the other, to reward the party of Revolution by keeping them in power. What Lord IDDESLEIGH had to say in reference to these attacks upon property was not new; but the truths he enunciated so clearly cannot be too frequently impressed upon the public mind. Whatever may be the causes—and they are no doubt numerous and complex—of the existing depression of trade, these wicked revolutionary theories will, if acted upon, initiate a system of plunder which must inevitably ruin the commercial credit of the country, and thus destroy the very foundation of all its material prosperity. And that Mr. GLADSTONE should have deliberately abstained from expressing his mature opinion on matters so fraught with peril to every class in the community is a scandalous neglect of a duty, incumbent indeed upon every prominent public man, but more especially obligatory upon him.

Mr. GLADSTONE'S observations on the subject of Parliamentary procedure were ably exposed and refuted by Lord IDDESLEIGH. Backed by an enormous and devoted majority in the House of Commons, Mr. GLADSTONE was able to carry the rules of procedure which he desired. The real reason why he failed in his object was because he attempted to deal with the matter in a high-handed and arbitrary manner. To an extent quite unprecedented, private members consented to give up a very large proportion of last Session to Mr. GLADSTONE'S Government; and nothing can be clearer than that the blame for the delay of business which Mr. GLADSTONE seeks to lay on the shoulders of the then Opposition really belongs to his own mismanagement. Another point on which Mr. GLADSTONE lays stress is the question of Local

Government. The chief use which the ex Prime Minister has made of this question, is, as Lord Iddesleigh says, to stop proposals made by others. That was an expedient resorted to again and again. As to the last of Mr. Gladstone's four points, the Registration of Leases, most people will concur with Lord Iddesleigh's opinion that Mr. Gladstone's language may mean anything or nothing—probably the latter. That Mr. Gladstone's claims to a renewal of the confidence of the country rest upon a very slender basis indeed ought thus to be evident to every candid reader of his Manifesto. Equally unavailing and impotent are the wretched excuses with which this discredited ex-Minister seeks to palliate his frightful mismanagement of our affairs abroad. Lord Iddesleigh covered with deserved ridicule the plea that the Radical ex-Ministers are not responsible for the things they have done, for the oceans of blood they have shed, for the millions they have squandered in Egypt, because their predecessors agreed with France years before to set up the *Condominium*. Such an abject absurdity really needs no exposure. It will not be by any such childish artifices as these that Mr. Gladstone will hoodwink the British people into restoring him to the confidence which he has so shamefully abused and so deservedly forfeited.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE CHURCH.

The passage in Mr. Gladstone's Manifesto in which he deals with the question of Disestablishment is one which deserves to be studied by Churchmen. If at first sight it may appear to be devoid of much meaning, a closer scrutiny of its language will, we think, prove it to be full of significance. And that significance lies, as Lord Iddesleigh observed of the address as a whole, quite as much in what it omits to say as in what it does say. There is not a word in it from beginning to end in favour of maintaining the establishment of the Church—not a word even of mild deprecation of her disestablishment and disendowment. On the contrary, Mr. Gladstone expresses his "strong conviction that the accomplishment of this great "modification of our inherited institutions"—that is his delicate euphemism for a sacrilegious spoliation of the Church—"would "find the vitality of the Church of England "equal to all the needs of the occasion." All of which means that Disestablishment and Disendowment could at least do the Church no real harm. Nor is this all, by any means. Mr. Gladstone goes considerably further when he points out that the "abridgment of the Church's "prerogatives as an Establishment have been "contemporaneous with an increase of her "spiritual and social strength." In other words, the attacks which the Church has hitherto sustained have, so far from doing her harm, done her a great deal of good. From which the inference seems naturally to follow, that the more she is despoiled the better she will thrive. There is no novelty whatever in that view; only it is distinctly a new thing for us to find Mr. Gladstone advocating it.

Then we have the statement that the question of the severance of the Church of England from the State "cannot become practical until it "shall have grown to the public mind" by being thoroughly discussed and approved—which is a roundabout Gladstonian way of saying that Disestablishment will not come until the nation has carefully weighed the matter and decided the question on its merits. Upon which we have two observations to make: first, that Mr. Gladstone here again carefully guards himself against expressing a syllable of disapproval of the principle of Disestablishment; and, secondly, that it is at least an open question whether the Church, before being disestablished, would be permitted to enjoy the advantage which Mr. Gladstone promises her of a fair field and no favour. What guarantee have we of a "thorough discussion" of the proposal, or of its approval by the nation before it is decided upon by Parliament? We do not forget how the Reform question was suddenly sprung upon a moribund Parliament. Who ever imagined in 1880 that the County Franchise question would be raised before the next Dissolution? Yet it was raised, and all chance of appealing to the people was steadily refused. Is there any reason to suppose that the Disestablishment question will be dealt with more fairly or justly? Of course there is not. There is not the slightest safeguard against the same despicable trick being played with Disestablishment that was played with Reform. On the contrary, there is an absolute certainty that it will be played if possible, and that the Radicals intend to play it.

And as to the Disestablishment of the Church of England not being a "practical" question, that is the very same statement which Mr. Gladstone made about the Disestablishment of the Irish Church, only a very short time before he himself effected her Disestablishment and spoliation. So now: the calculation is that Churchmen and Moderate Liberals will be hoodwinked by these phrases about the question not being "practical" into believing that the whole matter is indefinitely postponed. There could be no greater delusion. We may depend upon it that the intention is to make the question "practical" as soon as it is convenient to the Radical Revolutionists that it should become so. "Surely in vain is the "net spread in the sight of any bird." Churchmen will only have themselves to thank if they permit themselves to be juggled and befooled into supporting Mr. Gladstone and his accomplices.

The *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, one of the best-written and most enterprising daily newspapers in the kingdom, has just rendered a very great and important service to the Tory cause. Our contemporary has issued a broadsheet, in view of the general election, entitled "Some Great Tory Reforms," containing an admirable summary of what the Conservatives have done for the working classes during the last fifty years. The articles give full particulars of (1) the Abolition of the Truck System; (2) the Factory Acts, with an account of the Radical opposition to them, and the discreditable conduct of Mr. Bright with reference to the Ten Hours Bill; (3) the Reform of the Labour Laws; (4) the Tory policy in favour of Popular Education; (5) the Tory Sanitary Legislation, under which head a little more might with advantage have been said of Lord Salisbury's recent action as to the Dwellings of the Poor; and (6) Household Suffrage. The clear and concise arrangement of this broadsheet does the greatest credit to the compiler, and we desire to impress upon every Conservative Association in the kingdom that there is no better method of securing a Tory victory than by a wholesale distribution of so valuable an instrument in the dissemination of political truth. We desire to see it circulated, not by the thousand, but literally by the million.

A NUT FOR THE LIBERALS.

The race will soon begin, sirs—
A Trial Stakes for you:
Declare with which you'll win, sirs,
"The Marquis" or "The Screw."

W. P. A.

Reviews.

GLENAVERIL.*

The three remaining Books of Lord Lytton's *Glenaveril* have been published together, and the work is now complete. It possesses many of the elements of a great poem, and contains many brilliant and striking passages which any of our modern poets might have been glad to have written. But we certainly cannot class it among great poems; and we doubt if it will take a permanent place in English literature. This is not, however, to be regarded as altogether unfavourable criticism, for great poems are not produced in every generation, and we do not, for our own part, know any contemporary work which we could so class. It is sufficient to say that no one who aspires to be acquainted with the poetry of the day as opposed to the poetry of all time can afford to neglect *Glenaveril*, and no lover of poetry can fail to appreciate certain portions of it, though the great length to which it extends makes a careful study of it as a whole a somewhat laborious task. Lord Lytton has certainly contrived to frame a most ingenious plot on which to string together his varying stanzas of pathos and politics, sarcasm and tenderness, philosophy and common sense. Those of our readers who have been content to rely upon our notice of the earlier Books for their knowledge of the plot, will remember that the third closed with the death of Emanuel Muller by an accident in the Alps, notwithstanding Glenaveril's heroic efforts to save him, in the course of which he himself sustained severe injuries, which left him senseless. As at the time the English peer and his German friend were masquerading each under the other's name, it is commonly supposed that the dead man is Lord Glenaveril, and the sore-wounded and unconscious survivor his humble secretary. So Emanuel is buried with all pomp, and a new Lord Glenaveril reigns in his stead, while Ivor is tenderly nursed as Emanuel Muller by the fair Cordelia. This is a puzzling affair for the good Professor Edelrath, the friend of both, to deal with, and he is not supported, as the reader is, by a knowledge that all is really right and that owing to the fright and anxiety of the nurse to whom the two babes were entrusted at their birth—the peasant boy has been brought up as Lord Glenaveril and the youthful peer as Emanuel Muller, so that the supposed metamorphosis was in reality an unconscious resumption by each of their true characters. When, therefore, he finds Ivor—we will call him so, as Lord Lytton does throughout—nursed by Cordelia, and learns how the letter which he thought he had suppressed reached its destination, so that Cordelia, believing Emanuel to have responded to her advances, recognises in her interesting patient one whose soul-affinity is unmistakeable, he is at his wit's end. He reproaches Ivor, who has already reproached himself sufficiently for his deception, and insists on his coming to an explanation. This is, indeed, a hard task for any man; but Ivor gallantly undertakes it, and is rewarded by the discovery that Cordelia already knows his secret, having gathered it from his unconscious utterances while she was nursing him. The scene between hero and heroine in which this revelation takes place contains some of the most poetical passages in the poem, and shows Lord Lytton at his best. Nor should the graceful Eastern apologue of love and the bird to which it gives occasion be overlooked. It is unfortunately too long for us to quote here, but we cannot doubt that it will find a place in every volume of extracts from the second Lord Lytton's poems. Indeed, the compiler of such a volume will find a rich storehouse to his hand in *Glenaveril*, and it is probable that it is in this shape that most readers will make acquaintance with it. Nor will it suffer so much from the process as will most poems, as the discursive style in which it is written renders it more easy to extract the *purpurei panni* than is the case in works which have more interdependence of one part on another.

When Ivor finds out that he is forgiven for having passed himself off as Emanuel, and for having answered the letter which was not written to him, another difficult question suggests itself. What is he to do about reclaiming his rightful position in England? Here we think the arguments which Cordelia employs against his assertion of his claim fail of their effect when regarded from the arguer's own point of view. Nor do we think that if Ivor had really been Lord Glenaveril he would have given way to them. They are too much dictated by a half-unconscious consciousness on Cordelia's part that she is not suited for the *rôle* of an English peeress. But had Ivor really been an English peer, for the sake of his historic past he would not have yielded to them. Being, however, really the German pastor's son, he is persuaded by them, and he and Cordelia start to found a new colony on somewhat Communist principles in America. Thus is worked out the theory of heredity which furnishes a keynote to Lord Lytton's poem. The dissatisfaction of Emanuel with his sordid lot is the natural result of his feeling that he is born for noble things. The proud aspirations of the old English family of which he was the representative stir within him, just as in the supposed Glenaveril a sympathetic chord is touched when, all unknown to him, the letter comes from the daughter of his real mother's first love. The hereditary influence is strong upon him, and Cordelia is not mistaken in her confidence that the son of Johann Stahl's first love will feel drawn by a mysterious affinity to Johann Stahl's daughter. So all is well that ends well, and the poetical novel, as it has been not unfairly described, ends—as prose novels have the habit of doing—in a happy marriage. Even Edelrath comes to share Cordelia's faith that—

Ivor is the true
Emanuel, and not the man that's dead.

So he reconciles himself to the American scheme, of which he had some natural distrust while he supposed that it was the true Lord Glenaveril whom Cordelia had elected to wed, and—

Thus resigned
To Emanuel's death, and Ivor's sacrifice,
Edelrath raised to heaven his looks. And lo,
The rosy mountain-tops were all a glow!

XXIV.

Over the cold, steel-coloured, lake still hung
White lingering vapours. Night had rallied there
Her retted darknesses; which faintly clung
About the low shores, seeking their last lair
Under the vast and solemn shadows flung
From shining summits in a golden air;
And there, as if dawn took them by surprise,
A few faint lamps still winked their drowsy eyes;

XXV.

But, near the horizon, streaked with daffodil
The waters gleamed. And ever and anon
Up from the little town below the hill
Came sounds of life: the cock's alarum lone,
The chime of matin bells, and, made more shrill
By intervening silence, the sharp tone
Of some dog's wandering bark, or boatman's shout,
From quays whence market-boats were putting out;

XXVI.

High up in heaven, a realm of radiant snow
And gorgeous colour, with surprise swift
Thro' solemn transformations passing now,
In spacious pageantry began to lift
Its sunrise-coronalled capacious brow,
And over its mysterious shoulders shift
A mantle vast of ever-varying hue,
Purple, and crimson, and aërial blue.

XXVII.

Uplifted by the exhilarating sight,
As on these splendid summits dipped in day
Edelrath gazed, he felt his soul grow light
And buoyant. Underneath and round him, lay
A lower land, of wooded slopes, and slight
Acclivities, and streams whose sparkling way
Flashed in the sunrise here and there, and made
A rambling light through depths of dewy shade;

XXVIII.

Not far away, above that rocky wall,
All gapped, and broken, and with weeds o'ergrown,
Where he had sat with Ivor, rose a small,
Smooth, shrubless hill; whose bare unrisen crown
Against the amber-lighted welkin, all
Steeped in the steadfast darkness of its own
Broad shadow (still impervious to the smile
Of the slow sunrise) stamped its black profile;

XXIX.

And on its edge (distinct against the sun)
Stood two young human figures, hand in hand,
Gazing into the glory; which anon,
From peak to peak, down all the lower land
Poured its blithe triumph, revelling on, and on,
And taking irresistible command
Of heaven and earth. They, like himself, no doubt,
To end a sleepless night had wandered out;

XXX.

Restless with happiness; and knowing, too,
That dreams, the sweetest, could but imitate
The real, waking, sweetness of the true
Elysium they had found. At length, elate,
The invincible sunrise stormed and overthrew
The darkness camped there. All in glittering state,
Its golden spears, and rosy pennons, gleamed
Across the ridge, and down the hillside streamed;

XXXI.

And, for a moment, while with pensive gaze
He watched them, those two forms were lost to sight,
Merged in a rich translucency of rays
That splendidly enwrapped them with the light
Of the first day of a new life; whose days,
The old man felt, must be in all things quite
Unlike the days that were. He knew that he
His children's Canaan should, like Moses, see

XXXII.

Only far off, nor ever enter it.
To earth no portion in the Promised Land
Of his own pilgrimage did Heaven permit.
On this lone Pisgah he laid down his wand,
Meanwhile, emerging from the glow that lit
Her image still, Cordelia, hand in hand
With Ivor, turned; and, lingeringly, they
Along the purple upland passed away.

This passage, with which the poem concludes, is a lengthy one, but is so full of beauty and tenderness that we have chosen to extract it as a sample of the poetic qualities of the poem rather than to select a variety of other stanzas which we had marked. No one could deny to the writer of such a passage a high place in contemporary literature, and there are many other parts of *Glenaveril* which might be cited to the like effect. But these the lover of poetry may be left to search out for himself; and he will find his reward in doing so. For although, as we have said, *Glenaveril* is not a great poem, it is unquestionably the work of a true poet.

* *Glenaveril; or, The Metamorphoses.* By the Earl of Lytton. Books IV., V., and VI.—London: John Murray.

NEW NOVELS.

Lady Margaret Majendie is a pleasant and graceful writer, and we have a grateful recollection of her previous works, especially of *Out of Their Element*. In her new novel* she has not attained quite the same measure of success as in the last-mentioned work, but she has given us a well written story, in which we are introduced to some very agreeable persons, especially of the gentler sex. The main drawback to our enjoyment of the book is that we cannot help feeling that we have read it all before; and neither in character or in incident is there much which strikes us as very original. But there is at the same time much which strikes us as very pleasant reading, and we prefer the wholesome fresh tone of the family life to which she introduces us to the more stirring and unwholesome interest which is aimed at by many of her fellow-novelists, especially by those of her own sex. The Cranstoun family are quite delightful and though there is something very familiar both, in Lily's perversity and Garda's angelic patience, in Will Curtis's rescue from ruin, and in the development of Susan's nobler feelings, we are inclined to forgive the familiarity of the types in consideration of the grace and felicity with which they are worked out. The novel is not indeed one without a hero, but it is one without a villain, unless Mr. Isaacs may, to some modified extent, be considered to supply that necessary *rôle*. We only wish that in real life we could meet with as many pleasant and agreeable people as are pictured for us in Lady Margaret Majendie's pages. Mrs. White is perhaps the best-drawn and most original among them, but they are one and all finely and distinctively sketched, though, as we have said, on somewhat well-worn lines. There is not much in the plot; but the situation between Bertha and Lord Carlton is decidedly original, and the difficulty which each feels in withdrawing from the engagement into which they have entered, without injuring the feelings of the other, is cleverly dealt with. We doubt, however, if any middle-aged lady would have been romantic enough to throw over a popular peer, younger than herself, with sixty thousand a year, on the reappearance of a middle-aged lover whom she has not seen since both were quite young.

Mr. Hartley is quite clever enough, and has a keen enough sense of the humorous, to have written a much better book than *In a London Suburb*,† and we trust that he may yet produce one free from the vulgarity and bad taste by which it is defaced. For amid the grotesque exaggeration, which suggests a feeble imitation of Charles Dickens at his worst, there are flashes of genuine fun, which make us laugh almost in spite of ourselves. But even if the book were funnier than it is and the humour less overlaid with vulgarity, we could not recommend to our readers this picture of low ambitions, petty quarrels, and defective morality, and there is much in the author's flippant references to serious subjects which must jar upon the reader. The hero is an ex-cavalry officer, who takes up his abode in the suburb for a short time for financial reasons, and he must be supposed to have some greater attractions for the opposite sex than the reader would have supposed from anything which appears in the novel. For, on the very day when he had arranged to run off with a married lady whom her husband ill-uses, a young unmarried lady begs desperately to be allowed to become his mistress, he openly avowing that he will not marry her. This offer he politely declines, though rather (like Mr. Chamberlain) astonished at his own moderation. The married lady also thinks better of it when the time comes, much to his disgust; and it is impossible not to contrast his

* *Sisters-in-Law.* By Lady Margaret Majendie. In Three Vols.—London: R. Bentley and Son, 1885.

† *In a London Suburb.* By W. Hartley. In Three Vols.—London: F. V. White and Co., 1885.

conduct towards her with that of Frank Carruthers to Beatrice in *A Family Affair*. Unlike that of Mr. Conway's hero, Jack Scarlett's love was not too great to think of degrading the woman he loved. In the end he is rewarded for his devotion by the death of Mr. Bracelin; and when he again meets Mrs. Bracelin "by common "impulse the later phases of their former ac- "quaintance were ignored, and their new court- "ship was by no means a mere resumption of "that which had gone before, and fortunately "was buried harmlessly in the past.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.

In this month of registration there are few books which will be more frequently and anxiously consulted than the treatise on *The Parliamentary Election and Registration Acts* (William Clowes and Sons), which has just been issued with praiseworthy promptitude, bearing two names well known in the world of legal book-writers, those of Messrs. Lely and Foulkes. In the last ten months no less than nine Acts bearing upon this complex subject have received the Royal Assent. The system adopted by the Parliamentary draftsman is that of reference from the new Bill to an old Act. The Act of 1884 refers to, and can only be explained by, the Acts of 1832 and 1867. "Forty-shilling freeholders," again, owe their legal existence to a statute of Henry VI.'s reign. "He which cannot expend forty shillings "by year, as afore is said, shall in no wise be "chooser of the knights for the Parliament," were the words used in 1429, which are still part of the law of the land. As a careful and trustworthy collection of statutes, combined with an indication of the "judge-made" law on each section, and, what is perhaps more valuable to the wanderer in this maze of 149 Acts, a good index. Messrs. Lely and Foulkes' book may be highly recommended. More than this time has not permitted the editors to make it; for while one of these Acts was passed on the 6th August, the preface before us is dated, and we believe the book was in the hands of the public very shortly after, the 19th of the same month. The arrangement adopted is certainly convenient, as the qualification and registration of electors, electoral areas, the disqualification of candidates, the election itself, and election petitions are subjects which may well be treated separately. The reader of this book must not expect original discussion or brilliant analysis, but he may well hope to find himself referred to, or furnished with, each and every jot and tittle of the law which governs the election of members of the House of Commons in England and Wales. As a *répertoire*—in fact, a reprint—of this nature, Messrs. Lely and Foulkes' latest book is worth its price.

There is a great deal that it is useful and interesting to know in Sir Edmund F. Ducane's book on *The Punishment and Prevention of Crime* (Macmillan and Co.), which is the latest addition to the well-known *English Citizen Series*. The limits of ordinary information on this subject are soon reached. They may, perhaps, be gauged by the description of Portland in the novel *A Family Affair*—the latest and the posthumous work of one who was known as Hugh Conway. To this extent only do most men know what a prison is. Of what a prison was in the days of Howard and of Mrs. Fry their conception has much in common with the picture of a Siberian gaol which was drawn by the same skilful hand in the first work by which he became known to the world: we mean *Called Back*. Such readers have much to learn from Sir Edmund Ducane's pages. Of prisons no one can be better qualified to speak than one who is, on the showing of his own title-page, "Chairman "of Commissioners of Prisons, Chairman of "Directors of Prisons, Inspector-General of "Military Prisons, and Surveyor-General of "Prisons." It is to be regretted, however, that Sir Edmund Ducane has not had time, to borrow Pascal's phrase, to make his book short. In this respect *The Punishment and Prevention of Crime* contrasts unfavourably with its immediate predecessor in the *Citizen Series*, Mr. F. W. Maitland's *Justice and Police*. The latter is incomparably the larger subject. Yet the former book is more than fifty pages longer. These works are not intended—witness their advertisement—to refer in detail to clauses or sections of Acts of Parliament, but to select and sum up the salient features of a branch of legislation. We should have been bettter pleased with a more concise exposition of the way in which crime is now and was formerly punished and prevented than with the elaborate statement of statutes and statistics which Sir Edmund Ducane has given us. Yet there are many things which we are glad to have put plainly before us—as, for instance, the essential feature of the type of prison now generally adopted. It is (p. 55) "that of assigning a separate cell to each prisoner. "This cell the prisoner under a short sentence, or "during a limited part of a long one, occupies at "all times, except during Divine service, exercise, "or instruction, unless he is on the tread-wheel; "and during the remainder of a long sentence, at all "events at night and during meals, or generally when "not employed on regulated and associated labour." The most effective continuous punishment in the eyes of an authority so high as Sir E. Ducane "(besides loss of liberty), which can be inflicted "on a prisoner, consists of strict isolation from "the social enjoyment and companionship of his "fellows, diet reduced to the barest necessaries, "deprivation of all the comforts and luxuries "which men of the prisoner class usually allow "themselves, such as tobacco, drink, &c." (p. 17). Here and there in the mass of information one comes on an interesting reminiscence, such as that which is quoted (p. 28) to show the deterrent effect of capital punishment. "A convict in "Western Australia found means of surrep- "titiously passing out a letter to a friend in "England. When the letter arrived, the friend, "for reasons which may be surmised, could not "be found at the address given. It therefore "came in the usual course to the Dead Letter "Office; thence, in due course, it was returned "to the authorities of the prison in which "it had been written, and was duly examined "and reported. It was found that the writer "was informing his friend that in the colony "there was a law which made a murderous "assault on a warder a capital offence, and he "commented on the fact in his own words "thus:—'They top (*i.e.* hang) a cove out here for "'slogging (*i.e.* striking) a bloke (*i.e.* a warder). "'*That bit of rope, dear Jack, is a great check on a* "'*man's temper.*'" We look in vain, however, for such details as those of the successful escapes, the present system of prison clothing, and the supervision of prisoners' letters. We have to content ourselves with knowing that Pentonville Prison "at its first construction cost £180 a cell," while York Prison cost no less than £1,200 a prisoner, the measure being presumably the same.

We cannot congratulate Sir Edmund Ducane on his power of writing his own language. We do not allude to such solecisms as "to permit of" (p. 75) or "indiscipline" (p. 169), and we will not carp at the fact that the brilliant Edinburgh Reviewer is mentioned as "the Rev. Sidney "Smith" on one page and "Sydney Smith" on another. But for tautology commend us to a sentence on p. 39:—"Disorderly prisoners were "chained down to ring bolts, and prisoners were "even chained down to rings and bolts to make "up for the insecurity of the prison." And for obscurity commend us to a statement in reference to Prynne, who lost his ears by sentence of the Star Chamber for seditious publications. "The "Earl of Devon in pronouncing sentence (the italics are ours) expressed *his* personal opinion "that *he* should be loth *he* should escape with *his* "ears." On the following page, however, Sir Edmund Ducane transcends himself in a short paragraph which we cannot but quote in its entirety:—

> It was no doubt the remembrance of the legal infliction of the punishment of slitting the nose which suggested to some of the officers of Charles II.'s guard to waylay and punish Sir John Coventry in this way for some joke about the King's partiality for actresses, and *this crime*, thenceforth, by an Act called the Coventry Act, was made felony, without benefit of clergy."

What was the crime? The King's partiality for actresses? Or the joke anent that partiality? Why not? Leigh Hunt went to prison for speaking of Royalty as "A fat Adonis of forty." Or was it the lynch law which was dealt out to the joker? It is difficult to gather from Sir Edmund Ducane's statement even the vaguest idea that by the Coventry Act it was, as a matter of fact, made felony, without benefit of clergy, "of malice, "forethought, and by lying in wait," to "unlaw- "fully cut out or disable the tongue, put out an "eye, slit the nose, or cut off or disable any limb "or member of any subject of his Majesty."

In *Hints to Country Bumpkins* (Hatchard) the writer, who calls himself a "country bumpkin," has done a distinct service by exposing, in unvarnished language, the shams preached by prominent members of the Radical party, and by putting before the inexperienced and newly-enfranchised voters of England the issues which depend upon the coming General Election. His remarks on the various party cries are thoroughly to the point, and his advice to working-men on the questions of the day is sound. Copies of the work should be liberally circulated in every county, for it will clearly show the labourers of England who has the best right to be esteemed their true friends, and prevent their being led away by what the writer calls "Radical Thumpers"—"real big thumping lies"—several specimens of which he selects from the speeches of prominent Radicals.

The Rev. T. Moore, vicar of Holy Trinity, Maidstone, has made a valuable addition to his several works bearing on the Disestablishment question. In *The Case for the "Establishment" Stated* (S.P.C.K.) he has covered so much argumentative ground, has dealt so exhaustively with the various aspects of the question under consideration, and has made out so clear a case in favour of the retention of the Church of England as the national, established, and endowed Church of the country, that the prevalent fallacies of the Liberationists can have no weight with those who will study this work, which, at the same time, will furnish those who take part in the controversy with the most convincing arguments in favour of the Church.

Several new volumes are to hand from the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. They consist of stories written by those whose one aim is to counteract the evil effects of the torrent of pernicious literature with which London and all our great cities are flooded. No better method could be adopted with a view to this result than the dissemination of such wholesome stories as are those under notice, which include *After Five Years*, *Mary Roper's Story*, *My Lass*, *Two Friends*, &c., wherein readers of every age will find all the elements which make such stories interesting and instructive.

Those who have not the time or opportunity to wade through the complete *History of Don Quixote* will welcome the abridged edition issued by Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. Here we have presented such a selection from the many achievements of the celebrated Knight as will give a good idea of this remarkable history, added to which is a concise and well-written biography of the author whose book has obtained such world-wide popularity.

Since we last noticed the *Monthly Packet* (Walter Smith) a new volume has begun, and the editor has judiciously arranged for the simultaneous commencement of some new stories, instead of that overlapping which is so inconvenient for new subscribers. The September number is the third of the new volume, and we recommend all those who are not yet to be numbered in that large army of readers gathered under Miss Yonge's banner to hark back to the July number, in which were commenced three promising serials. One of these, "Astray," is very much in the editor's own style, and, if it be not her work, it is the work of an apt pupil. The various characters are carefully discriminated, and are well revealed by what they themselves say and do, not merely ticketed and labelled once for all by the author. We fear that there is sorrow ahead for poor Rachael King, who is the real heroine. "Children of the Renaissance" is a more ambitious attempt at a quasi-historical novel, and gives a good account of the University of Prague at the time of that great intellectual movement in the sixteenth century, which has so much interest for us at the present day, owing to its parallelism with much which is taking place among ourselves. The writer or her printer is, however, responsible for some strange blunders, as, for example, the *Dictum de Omni et Nulli (!)* and the great display of learning introduced gives us rather the impression of having been read up for the occasion. We prefer "Madame's Granddaughter," another of those pictures of foreign life for which the author of *The Rose Garden* has a special talent. The scene is laid on the coast near Cannes, and there are a succession of charming pictures of scenery and delightful bits of local colour which would make it very pleasant reading even if the personages introduced were less interesting. But as it happens, they are very interesting. Madame herself, though a very disagreeable old lady, is an admirable creation, and her poor granddaughter, who has so much to put up with from her miserly disposition, has great possibilities before her. It is not likely that the course of her love for Raymond de Seligne will run smooth, and she is left at the end of the September instalment in a very painful position It is hard indeed on a heroine to have her rival quartered upon her as a lodger, and to be thus wounded in her pride as well as in her affections. But the *Monthly Packet* is not solely dependent on its fiction for its attractions, and there is a wholesome admixture of graver matter. The editor continues those interesting historical sketches which are so clear-cut as to justify the somewhat fantastic title which she has chosen for them—a title, however, which she has made so familiar that it no longer strikes us as fantastic. In the "Cameo" for September she tells of the Irish Rebellion which followed after the recall of Strafford; and in that tale of misery and cruelty the episode of Bishop Bedell's journal, which was so favourite a subject with the late Dean of Westminster, shines out as one spot of brightness amid the gloom. *Twelfth Night* is the ground-work of the Shakespeare Talk this month, and though we are told that these talks are intended for uncritical people, there is a good deal of sound and good criticism in it. Mdme. Linda Villari gives some delightful pictures of Meran, which are rather tantalising to those kept in England at the present season, and the very interesting series of papers on the stars which have been for some time running their course in the *Monthly Packet* is concluded in this number, as also are the graphic sketches of animal biography, entitled "Some of My Friends." Nor must we omit to notice the "Preparation of Prayer-Book "Lessons," an established feature of value and interest. That for September treats of the rubrics after the Nicene Creed, and without going very deeply into the subject contains much that might be very usefully reproduced by Sunday-school teachers and catechisers.

Tourists in Scotland cannot do better than provide themselves with the *North British Railway Guide* issued by Mr. John Miller, of Glasgow, wherein they will find reliable information as to the train services on the various routes, descriptions of the many towns and places of interest in the Highlands, with capital illustrations, useful bird's-eye maps and several travelling maps, the whole forming a most complete and handy guide and indispensable adjunct to every traveller's belongings.

Correspondence.

THE WORKING CLASSES AND OUR TRADE WITH INDIA.

To the Editor of the JOHN BULL.

Sir,—Professor Leone Levi has stated before the Aberdeen meeting of the British Association, that "Bimetallism and Monometallism have nothing to do with the depression of trade." Such an announcement by a political economist, if suffered to pass unchallenged, is calculated to produce a most prejudicial effect at the present juncture. I myself have already drawn public attention to the following facts and arguments.

Enormous quantities of goods, which used to be made in Great Britain and purchased by India, are now manufactured under Government auspices by the people of India. This turn in affairs was brought about by a heavy depreciation in the currency of India, owing to a fall to bullion prices of silver as a metal. The depreciation in silver resulted in a loss idol Freetrade. "If these nations," he tells us, "sacrifice their national interests, that is no valid reason why we should do the same." In what way do they "sacrifice national interests"? By a system of Protection they have built up a manufacturing industry which threatens to swamp our own, even in the field which yet remains open in our own dependency of India.

When manufactures are flourishing in a country, it attracts the wealth of other countries; its people find employment, and even if wheat be a few shillings a quarter dearer, the inhabitants are in a better position to pay for the necessaries of life.

The question of Protection, however, is not the point at issue. Most persons who differ from Professor Leone Levi are Fairtraders—men who wish to deal with other nations as they deal with us: to admit their goods free when they admit ours free, and impose restrictions if they restrict us. I am not advocating either Protection for the British manufacturer or any favouritism whatsoever. It is not necessary to advocate anything of the sort. But it is necessary, and it is our bounden duty, when we find him heavily handicapped, to remove all obstacles to legitimate competition.

Even putting aside the logic of facts, the argument itself is by no means as cogent as it appears at first sight to be. England is essentially a manufacturing country. A British workman who is engaged in supplying the necessities of the East, and is thus receiving three shillings a day, can afford to pay fivepence-halfpenny for a loaf of bread; but when, by being thrown out of employment, he is earning nothing at all, it is of no advantage whatever to him that, in consequence of the cheapening of wheat, the loaf is selling at a halfpenny less. The gain to the country cannot be compared with the loss to the country. Besides, as to raw materials, England places no restrictions upon commerce; the Indian ports are thrown open to all. If, therefore, there be a fall in the price of raw material, that fall is precisely of the same advantage to the competitor of the British manufacturer as it is to the said manufacturer himself.

The truth is, the Professor is a thick-and-thin supporter of Radical doctrines. There is something eminently absurd in the lofty disdain with which he regards the action of France, Germany, and the United States in abstaining from the worship of his by exchange of nearly 22 per cent., which had to be added on to the price of every article purchased here for export to India. India could no longer afford to pay this extra price, and the Government of India sought relief for its subjects in the establishment of factories of its own. This action has mainly been determined by the apathy of people in England with regard to the question of exchange, and by the refusal of the Home Government to take any measures to restore the monetary equilibrium; and the extra price of 22 per cent. operated as a virtual tax upon British industries. If matters are not rectified, either by a general reversion to a bimetallic currency, or by rendering the rupee legal tender within this realm, the export trade to our richest and most populous dependency will, in a short time dwindle down to absolutely nothing. Moreover, Mr. Moreton Frewen, who supports my view, has pointed out how "the fearful dislocation in the par of exchange between the two precious metals" has similarly affected our exports to China, Mexico, and the States of America.

It may be that the Professor, whose duty it is to acquaint himself with whatever bears upon the question, never reads any periodical which does not favour his political views; but if he has read our side of the discussion, then I can only conclude that he bases his dictum on the common arguments about the depreciation of silver enabling us to procure wheat and a certain portion of our raw material at a cheaper rate than we otherwise should. Those who argue thus can have no conception of the insignificant proportion which this gain bears to the loss occasioned by the cessation of demand for our manufactured goods.

When the Professor tells the British workman that he "need not fear competition," he states only half the case. Thousands upon thousands who for years might have been engaged in the manufacture of goods for Indian consumption have been deprived of employment because of the enhanced price in India which the depreciation of silver has put upon the productions of this country; and thousands more, who at present are engaged in manufactures intended for the Indian market, soon will be thrown out of work unless we either join with other nations in some general scheme of bimetal coin, or by legislative enactment give to the silver coins of the Indian Mint the same legal worth as that accorded to the silver coins of the British Mint.

No doubt, since "India for the Indians" is the doctrine of the Radical school, the Professor would say that, independently of the question of exchange, the Government of our dependency is morally bound to stimulate manufactures of its own subjects, whatever be the effect on our working-people at home. But, if this be his view, then he must admit that the Government at home is equally bound to protect the interests of its own working-people.

Once more let me call upon the authorities to aid in the removal of this most ruinous drawback of 22 per cent.

E. GLADSTONE-LINGHAM.

Constitutional Club.

"UNWISDOM."

We have to thank a revered correspondent, "A. T.," an aged clergyman of "near fourscore years," who, under the above heading, writes to us from Canada, for a communication of which we regret that pressure upon our space precludes us from printing the whole. Those portions of his letter for which we can find room will, we are sure, be read with interest, marked as they are by a spirit of sound discretion and sterling common sense:—

"Dear *John Bull*,—I have not written to you for some years, notwithstanding my continued admiration of your wise and manly course. The astonishing *unwisdom* of so many who ought to be the leaders of English thought and action startles even the quietude of near fourscore years, and makes one feel aghast at the prospect of what England is coming to, as a prominent United States Prelate recently remarked to me."

After commenting on the "unwisdom" of our leaders with respect to many of the burning questions

of the day—the growth of unchecked democracy, the unprincipled robbery of the Irish landowners (to the injury of all classes of the community, and especially of the rural population), the threatened Disendowment of the Church, and the ultimate ushering in of Anarchy and semi-Paganism—our correspondent goes on to speak of his own experience during fifty years' residence on the borders of the neighbouring Republic as strengthening his dread of the future of his own country. Contemplating the physical and moral corruption of the American people, he "sees an unmistakeably awful prospect of national disruption and social anarchy—all, so far as man can judge, arising from the absence of those very institutions and principles concerning the probable loss of which in Great Britain so many of those who ought to be our guides appear to feel the most infatuated apathy."

But the particular subject to which he desires now specially to direct attention is "the wild excitement and the consequent unwisdom exhibited by those to whom we ought naturally to look up as our calm and wise, as well as pure-minded, guides, respecting the so-called 'revelations' of a prominent English newspaper. That a supposed respectable paper should have defiled its columns with the obscene and impure details which it has published is bad enough. Doubtless, however, it has its reward in a largely increased circulation amongst the thoughtless lovers of mere sensationalism and something worse.—It strikes me, Mr. Editor," he continues, "that being an avowedly pro-Russian organ, its proprietors may also have a political and half-treasonable design in thus extending its circulation, even by means so disreputable, in order to give their apologetic pleading on behalf of Russia a wider influence. But it is an even more real cause of shame that such revolting and insidiously dealing statements should have been so eagerly read by all classes of the community. This is surely a more painful indication of the corruption of society.

"One most depressing feature of this sudden outbreak of moral fright is, perhaps, the unwisdom of the manner in which these so-called 'revelations' of the paper in question are being treated by certain of our Bishops, clergy, statesmen, and a large portion of our educated classes; since, in place of that calm and thoughtful procedure which we look for from those whom we wish to rely upon as our guides, we see them acting as though they had been so suddenly startled out of all power of calm reflection, as to have lost all consideration of the terribly polluting effects which such abominable disclosures are likely to have upon the minds of the comparatively innocent of all classes.

"Again, another evil result of these spasmodic efforts is the sanction given to the *public* display of female action in the matter. I had, I confess, quite a revulsion of feeling when I read of a *public* meeting of women in London, with a *Bishop* at its head, convened for the discussion of this most odious subject. What are we coming to? By all means let women, in their own modest sphere, do all they can to aid their unfortunate sisters; but by all that is pure and feminine let it be under the guidance of their parish priests, and the protection of their own fathers, husbands, and brothers. Mark you, whatever tends to foster the unwomanly desire to assume masculine notoriety and publicity tends to a deterioration of the feminine character, and a loss of the sweetness of womanly delicacy and refinement.

"All the human race 'are born in sin and shapen in iniquity,' the slaves of their own passions; nor, whatever those who, 'thinking themselves wise, have become fools,' may say to the contrary, can we expect purity of life among those who are deprived of that godly training which our non-religious Common-schools will never give. State legislation may occasionally restrain the repulsive outward display of our native corruption, but it can never take even the first step in removing it. I by no means always agree with Dr. Fraser, the Bishop of Manchester, but he certainly manifested his practical wisdom when, in addressing a meeting called to urge on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, he warned them to beware lest in hurrying on incautious legislation, they might bring about a development of evil. Surely the good Bishop must have been reading of the sad moral condition of the United States."

Speaking next of the "unwisdom of these violent spasmodical attacks upon two or three particular sins, which, after all, are felt, even by those who are guilty of them, to be ruinous," our correspondent continues:—"Indeed, these periodical explosions seem to me to turn away the attention of sincere though unwise people from some of the most fruitful causes of evil and crime in the present day. Look at the atrocious and unprincipled ideas and maxims which are sapping the very foundations of order, truth, and virtue in Christendom, and hurrying us into anarchy and ruin. Such are the widespread resistance to all Authority, whether it be that of the parent, the Church, or the Throne; a deep-rooted and shamelessly dishonest wish on the part of many to seize the property of those richer than themselves. Politicians seem to have lost all true patriotism; they sneer at the Divine principles of Government, caring for little else than the lowest party interests. Meanwhile there is the prevalence of the most unblushing dishonesty in trade. Worse than all is the arrogant and foolhardy scoffing at God, His Revelation and His Service, which we witness everywhere.

"These also, let it be remembered, are sins respecting which men easily deceive themselves. And yet how little attention do our Christian leaders give to the stemming of these grievous and wicked delusions which are working so much untold mischief. The great cause, however, of Britain's trouble, if not decay, moral and political, is her determination not to train her youth in Christian godliness, and in this crime too many Churchmen and other professed Christians are virtual accomplices, from their want of resolute opposition to the non-religious Common-school systems both at home and in the colonies.

"The evils we now deplore are the natural results of this neglect. I am forcibly reminded of the story of an acute youth whose father was a very earnest minister, and who remarked, 'My father has put me in the devil's mouth, and now prays that he may not swallow me.' Many of us have long foreseen that the non-religious Common-school system must be the ultimate ruin both of the United States and Canada, and assuredly each year does but add to the apparent certainty of this prospect."

LITERARY AND OTHER NOTES.

Her Majesty has graciously accepted from Mr. Francis George Heath a copy of the Holiday Edition of his *Burnham Beeches*.

Dr. Henry J. Edwards's new oratorio, the exercise for his degree, will be heard in Oxford on the 6th of November. Messrs. E. Lloyd and F. King and Mrs. Hutchinson and Miss Wilson will render the solos.

The Rev. S. A. Swaine is writing a life of General Gordon, which will appear shortly as one of the volumes of *The World's Workers' Series*, published by Messrs. Cassell and Company.

Few people have any idea of the labour that bees have to expend in the gathering of honey. Here is a calculation which will show how industrious the "busy" bee really is. Let us suppose the insects confine their attention to clover fields. Each head of clover contains about sixty separate flower tubes, in each of which is a portion of sugar not exceeding the five-hundredth part of a grain. Therefore, before one grain of sugar can be got, the bee must insert its proboscis in 500 clover tubes. Now there are 7,000 grains in a pound, so that it follows that 3,500,000 clover tubes must be sucked in order to obtain but one pound of honey.

A curious carving of the Temptation and Fall has been unearthed during the excavations at the Roman Bath at Bath. It is a fair-sized stone, covered with incised carving, showing a spreading tree entwined by a serpent; and two figures—a man reclining on a bank, and a woman standing upright to reach something from the tree. According to a correspondent of the *Bath Herald*, this is the first ancient relic found in Bath of a Christian, or rather Biblical, character, and is the only important one of a similar character found in Britain. Various Roman remains were dug up close by.

Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, the distinguished ornithologist attached to the British Museum staff, has returned to England. Mr. Sharpe in April last was sent out to Simla by the trustees to receive and pack up the superb collection of birds formed by Mr. Allan O. Hume, C.B., and by him generously presented to the nation. The *Daily News* states that the gift comprises 60,000 birds, about 500 nests, and many thousands of eggs—an entirely unique illustration of the ornithological fauna of the British Asian Empire:—"It is the largest collection of birds ever brought together by a single individual, and is further remarkable for the great care expended in the preparation and preservation of the specimens, which are in beautiful condition. Mr. Sharpe by great energy and perseverance succeeded in getting the whole packed up in the short space of about ten weeks. The collection, contained in eighty cases, has recently arrived in this country, and the major part of it has been housed in the Natural History Museum in the Cromwell-road. As an instance of the rapid growth of this branch of the British Museum, we may state that the birds, with this latest addition, have been quadrupled in the last few years, and now number some 160,000 specimens. They constitute incomparably the finest ornithological collection in the world."

The artistic public at Liverpool, says the *Athenæum*, is much exercised by the fact that the authorities of the city have recently purchased for the Walker Art Gallery a by no means desirable work called "The Eve of the Battle of Edgehill," which was painted in 1845 by C. Landseer on a commission from Mr. Graves, of Pall-mall. The sole attractions of the picture seem to be, or rather to have been, two dogs inserted by Sir E. Landseer. The picture was engraved and afterwards sold by Mr. Graves to a dealer, who had the dogs cut out and their places supplied by copies from a very different hand. Mr. A. Graves's catalogue of Landseer's works relates that, with a new background painted by Mr. H. Bright, one of the original dogs, under the title of "The Sentinel," now does duty as an Edwin Landseer. The other dog, it seems, was described and sold at Mr. Benoni White's sale, May 24, 1879, as "A Spaniel and Despatch Bags, originally forming part of 'The Eve of the Battle of Edgehill,' by C. and E. Landseer." The question now asked in Liverpool is what could have induced the Walker Art Gallery authorities to buy such a work. Doubtless its history was only partially known to them; but a Charles Landseer is at no price a bargain, and some one ought to have been able to tell copies of Sir Edwin's dogs from originals. Besides, the history of "The Sentinel" was well known, and had been printed by the best authority on the subject.

The *Vossische Zeitung* reports that quite lately, when the foundations were being cleared for a building close to the St. Sophia Church at Kief, the workmen came on some weapons, coloured earthenware, and an urn, all in excellent condition. The urn contained a set of ornaments for a woman in perfect preservation; the importance of which consists less in their antiquity (probably the tenth or eleventh century) than in their completeness. The urn was well fastened and had evidently never been disturbed since the possessor hid away from enemies her most valuable effects. Along with other articles there were nine old square silver coins known as "grivna." There is a complete headdress, consisting of a lacework of indescribable intricacy, but which has been kept in its original position by silver plates to which it is sewn, so that one can see how a well-to-do Russian woman of the pre-Tartaric times adorned herself. The silver plates are oblong, surrounding the head and forming a sort of diadem. A quantity of silver and gold pendants hung all round from those plates; the pendants which would come over the ears being much larger than the others. There were silver bracelets and necklaces; and a gold ring, which is not soldered, but welded, and probably belongs even to an older date than the other objects. There was a considerable quantity of other silver and gold ornaments, chiefly pendants, many of which show extremely fine filagree work. The larger gold objects are of the class known as *cloisonné* work. All the ornaments show finish and taste; and if they are of native origin, they are evidence of the perfection to which the arts had been brought in Russia nine centuries ago.

Mr. J. C. Robinson, writing to the *Times*, on the announcement that the Italian Government has decreed the formation of a museum of Byzantine art at Ravenna, says it is a question whether the museum will become a useful institution or a disastrous infliction, since it may involve still more ruthless spoliation and so-called restoration; the removal from their original sites of fragments of antiquity, infinitely precious in connection with their old surroundings, speaking there with tongues, but mute and dead things in a museum; further patching, scraping, and sophistication of sculptures, mosaics, wall-paintings, &c. Of this the ancient city has had more than enough as it is. The façade of the Fondaco dei Turchi in Venice was quite recently transformed into a fancy version of the Byzantine style, evolved from the inner consciousness of a modern architect. By what outrageous inspiration was it that the old capitals of the Ducal Palace colonnade were removed to the same museum, and their places supplied with modern copies in glaring white marble? In all countries there are forces at work especially tending to place the management of museums in the hands of the wrong people; and there never was a time when ignorant and fussy enterprises, certain to do mischief, were more lightly undertaken in connection with art administration. Italy offers the richest field for wrong-headed or interested activity in art matters; there is still more to be spoiled in that country than in any other, and more art spoil to be carried away. Ravenna has been searched through and through and remorselessly plundered, like nearly all the other old Italian cities; only three years ago were rescued from destruction and brought to England some of its old disjointed stones. These same old Byzantine stones have found a home in the town of Birmingham, where they now adorn the walls of the last new thing in museums. At the South Kensington Museum will be found perhaps the richest treasure of Byzantine art in one of its most notable categories anywhere to be found. Among the mediæval ivories, of which this museum boasts an unrivalled series, are not a few specimens whose origin may, with great probability, be referred to Ravenna, and one important fragment dissevered from its companion pieces still preserved in the Italian city. Next to the Ravenna ivory chair there is, perhaps, no more important work of its class now extant than the 7th or 8th century ivory box known as the "Veroli coffret," acquired by the museum about 1860, and brought from the Cathedral treasury of Veroli, near Rome. Whether it was made at Constantinople or on the Italian side of the Adriatic—perhaps at Ravenna—is uncertain. In the little town museum at Ravenna are three disjointed ivory plaques or panels, originally from a box of similar size and period, though of different design; a fourth panel of this series is preserved along with the Veroli box at South Kensington.

At Birmingham the principal specimen, known to have been brought from Ravenna, is a large and massive slab of Greek marble with a semicircular arched opening cut through it—the arch band and spandrels being elaborately sculptured in bas-relief, with interlaced work, foliage, &c. This slab, which probably dates from the 8th or 9th century, may have been either the head of a doorway or the upper part of an altar canopy or baldachino in one of the Ravenna churches. Another of the Birmingham acquisitions is a marble sarcophagus of great size, doubtless the tomb of an ancient Bishop or presbyter. This, also, is elaborately carved with Byzantine foliage of semi-classic style, with the labarum and other Christian emblems. Both the Cathedral sacristy and the small municipal museum at Ravenna contain many other treasures of Byzantine art, presumably intended to form the nucleus of the more extensive collection now contemplated. The unique and all-important depository of Byzantine art objects, however, is the treasury of St. Mark's at Venice. It cannot be intended to remove the splendid enamelled and jewelled reliquaries and other ecclesiastical vessels of St. Mark's to Ravenna. Copies of them would suffice.

Theatres.

At the Olympic on Monday was produced a new play, *Peer or Pauper*, written by Mr. Macdonnel-Green, who has endeavoured to show that there are occasions when the salutary law which bears upon marriage with a deceased wife's sister may be the cause of undeserved distress. The piece bears evidence of having come from an unpractised playwright, while there was little in the acting deserving of special remark. The play introduces the audience to a distinguished colonist, who, having inherited a title and estate, becomes Lord Talgarth. He dies, leaving an heir, as he hopes, in his son. But having married his deceased wife's half-sister, his union, legal in Australia, is illegal in England. To the old country, however, mother and son go, and there she meets the Rev. Dr. Pettigrew, who knows the secret, which she has kept in order that her son may inherit. Pettigrew desires to marry the widow, but is rejected, and then he threatens to expose the truth. "Are you not aware that my husband's secret was given you under the sacred seal of the confessional?" she indignantly cries; but the doctor—whose creed is vague—replies, "Yes; but since then my views have become broader." Lady Talgarth then accidentally knocks him into a deep quarry which is left unguarded in any way in a much-frequented part of the estate near the mansion. The next heir to the title, Sir Charles Spavinhawk, a very bad man, learns what all believe to be the state of the case with regard to the Talgarth property; but after various complicated explanations, such as "My first wife's father married your mother," "Then I am half-sister to your former wife?" and so on, it appears that another rather out-of-the-way law comes into effect, and the son proves to be the legitimate heir, in consequence of the illegitimacy of either his mother or his aunt—which of them is not quite clearly demonstrated, as the genealogical difficulties introduced are so complex as to be quite incomprehensible.

Miss Lily Tinsley, who has already given several tokens of her ability as a novelist, made her *début* on Monday at the Surrey Theatre as a playwright, when was produced the new piece from her pen—in conjunction with that of Mr. George Conquest—entitled *Devil's Luck; or, The Man She Loved*. Being as it is of a highly sensational character, to which is added elaborate "setting" and good acting, the piece is just suited to a Surrey audience, and at their hands met with a well-deserved and enthusiastic reception. The main idea of the plot is that of the impersonation of a dead man—an idea which has been worked up over and over again. In this instance a deserter from a foot regiment ordered abroad happens to take shelter at a forge, where are brought two sufferers from a railway accident which has occurred in the vicinity. One of the wounded men is Lord Fairfield, returning from a voluntary expatriation to take possession of his wealth and estates; the papers proving his identity are upon him, and the hiding deserter at once forms the plan of putting his pursuers off the track, and stepping at a bound into position and affluence. How Nat Ashton contrives to pass himself off as Lord Fairfield, and by what means the barber-soldier is enabled at once to assume the manners of a gentleman and an aristocrat are psychological studies with which the joint authors of the drama concern themselves not at all. Enough that, after enjoying a brief reign of power and wealth, and after having to cloak his original sin by the commission of many blacker crimes, the rogue is unmasked, and dies by his own hand; while at the same time the shroud of suspicion and contumely which had surrounded the virtuous heroine and her weak-minded though loyal husband falls to the ground. Mr. George Conquest is thoroughly at home as a warm-hearted old village farrier and blacksmith, with a doting affection for his granddaughter, the heroine; Mr. E. Gurney is a handsome and stalwart hero; Mr. T. F. Nye is the most picturesque and painstaking of villains; and Mrs. Bennett infuses much passion into her impersonation of the luckless heroine. Mr. George Conquest, jun., Mr. Cruikshanks, Mr. E. Vincent, Miss Maude Stafford, and Miss Annie Conway also take prominent parts.

Sin and Its Shadows, a new sensational drama in four acts, by Mr. Harry Lemmon, was produced at the Theatre Royal, Oxford, on Monday. *Uncle Dan'l*, a comedy-drama that has enjoyed a success of over 5,000 nights in the United States, is presently to be staged for the first time in England in the provinces. And Mr. Walter Reynolds's drama, *A Mother's Sin*, is also at no distant date to be presented before a provincial audience.

The *Times of India*, of the 1st of September, says:—"The arrangements for the despatch of a Parsee theatrical troupe to England have been completed, and Mr. C. S. Nazir, who has been appointed manager of the company, leaves for England to-day in order to arrange the necessary preliminaries. The company will comprise some twenty-five actors and several actresses, and the *répertoire* has been arranged to suit English tastes as far as possible. The pieces selected for representation are those which illustrate modern native manners and customs, and selections will be made from the classic Indian dramas, which, however, it is thought, may be too dull from the spectators' point of view to command approval in England. The company will open at Her Majesty's Theatre, London, about November, and the duration of their stay will largely depend upon the measure of support they receive."

THE CHURCH AND THE LIBERALS.

On this subject Mr. Conybeare writes from Barrington Vicarage that the labourers there are mostly Liberal, as he is himself, and when the candidate arrived on his canvass it was elicited from him—and most unwilling he was to let it out—that he would support in the next Parliament any scheme which might be brought forward for disestablishing and disendowing the Church, provided vested interests were respected. The usual claptrap about the freedom of religion, &c., followed, which somewhat mystified the audience for the moment; but the next Sunday Mr. Conybeare preached a sermon setting forth the question in a style simple to baldness, and circulated it through the parish. The effect has been great, and will, it is hoped, be sufficiently lasting to turn many votes when the election comes on.

"C. E. G. J." says that the stake is too great to trust to probability; as a Churchman first, and a Liberal afterwards, he must either give his vote to the Conservative candidate, or by the formation of a league of Liberal Churchmen bring more pressure to bear on the candidate to give the abovenamed pledge. It seems probable that there will soon be a wider gulf of separation between the Radicals and the Liberals than between the latter and the Tories. If the Liberal candidate will not give such a pledge as is suggested, then Liberal Churchmen must vote for the Tory."

"A Priest" writes admirably to the *Guardian*:—"Is there, then, any question of current politics which is to be weighed for a moment against the religious question? Can any considerations justify a Churchman in not doing his best to prevent the return of a man pledged to the nationalising of Christ's goods and the denationalising of Christ's religion? Only if we take low ground on this question and accustom ourselves to speak of the disunion of the Government of this nation from its ancient Faith as the severance of an artificial tie, and the spoiling of the Church goods as an expedient and somewhat inequitable measure of reform.

"It may be the case that it is unreasonable to demand active resistance to sacrilege and profanation from Liberal Churchmen, and that abstention is all that can be well required, supposing them to be otherwise at one with the late Government. But if so, one is forced to ask the invidious question, Have Liberal Churchmen a justifiable existence? If the Church being above party means that Churchmen cannot reasonably be expected to renounce and resist the party they prefer when that party attacks religion, it is surely time that this aphorism, which will doubtless do good service at the approaching Church Congress, and which has been for years used as a convenient covert for the protection of Liberal Churchmen, should be exposed.

"That the Church should tie itself to the tails of the present Conservative party is not for a moment contended. Conservatism is the instinct of reverence and order in all times, but the prevailing form of religion at any particular time may be a wrong or imperfect one. If, however, there is any taint of Puritanism or Erastianism in the Conservatism bequeathed us by the last generation, we have no right to be impatient with religiously minded men for not knowing by instinct what the Church has never taught them. Because Toryism has been so modern-

ised, and liberalised, and browbeaten, that it has retained but a feeble grasp of Church principles, it is very illogical in Churchmen, who have only themselves lately regained true notions of their own principles, to take to homœopathy and drink still deeper draughts of Liberalism. . . . It is for the Church to educate the Tory Party.

"Few will deny that the party which has for ages been the natural ally of religion affords materials for such education. Can the same be said of Liberalism as we know it? Ever since the Tractarians died out, the flower of our Church leaders have looked more or less benevolently on Liberal ideas and Liberal reforms. The Church has supplied the democratic movement with a leader of extraordinary power and fascination, who might have seemed raised up for the express purpose of guiding the revolutionary forces of the age into the channels of reverence and faith. Although the rank and file of Churchmen remained Conservatives, the leaders and organs of Church opinion have for a generation or more endeavoured to conciliate the victorious spirit of the age by every art of gentle speaking. And what is the result of this policy? What have we gained by isolating ourselves from Catholic Christendom and from the battle which it is fighting? What have we gained by not teaching our people the true tendencies and character of modern Liberalism? Nothing at all. The result has been with the Church generally, as it has been with such a man as Mr. Gladstone individually, that while English Liberalism has not been Christianised, English Christianity has been sadly Liberalised.

"As to Moderate Liberals, they are as indifferent to the true claims of the Church in this land as the supernatural representative of Christ as all Whigs have been from the beginning. William of Orange and Burnet were Moderate Liberals, but it was not with men of this temper that the Catholic religion found itself most in sympathy.

"However, we are now face to face with Messrs. Morley and Chamberlain, and what right has the Church to leave her children any longer in the dark as to the non-Christian tendency of their politics? Because some of the Church leaders do not like to confess their adhesion to Mr. Gladstone to have been a mistake, that can be no reason for saying any longer that black is only a darkish kind of whitey-brown, and dallying disloyally with a great anti-religious movement."

Mr. A. R. Bingham-Wright advises Liberal Churchmen to be thorough. By abstention they diminish the chances of the Liberal by one vote; by voting for the Conservative, by two votes. Cannot a Liberal Churchman trust the Tories for reforms in the direction of help for the poor and such like things, which should be chiefly dear to Churchmen? Liberal Churchmen must not say that consistency prevents their giving a Conservative vote. The true consistency is not a blind adherence to a party which has shifted its principles, but a cleaving to the right.

"A Country Lawyer" remarks that the statistics given from the *Record* show that some candidates profess to support Disestablishment without Disendowment. As the Church never was established, the term Disestablishment does not by itself convey any clearly defined notion. Bishops will sit no longer in the Upper House, clergy be excluded no longer from the Lower, the parson will not *ex officio* preside in the parish vestry, the people will no more have a legal right to his ministrations. The patronage of Crown and Chancellor will end, and the ordinary law courts give the decisions hitherto pronounced in the Privy Council: perhaps Her Majesty's ships and regiments, our gaols and workhouses, will be served by all sorts and conditions of religious teachers. What besides is there in Disestablishment alone? Disendowment we can comprehend; for though the Church herself has never been endowed, sundry corporations connected with the Church have been, and their funds will be applied to non-religious purposes.

Ecclesiastical.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Rev. F. A. Allen, Curate of St. Matthew's, Oakley-square, to be Association Secretary for the South of England of the South American Missionary Society.

Rev. N. S. Barthropp, Rector of Itton and Mounton, to be English Chaplain at St. Moritz, Engadine, Switzerland, for the winter season.

Rev. E. C. K. Bearcroft, to Vicarage of Felmingham, Norfolk. Patron, the Bishop of Norwich.

Rev. J. B. Beard, to Perpetual Curacy of Greasborough. Patron, Earl Fitzwilliam.

Rev. F. Bennett, to Rectory of Farleigh. Patrons, Merton College, Oxford.

Rev. E. Carr, to Vicarage of Thornton Steward. Patron, the Bishop of Ripon.

Rev. C. H. Conybeare, to Vicarage of Itchen Stoke, Hants. Patron, Lord Ashburton.

Rev. W. J. Courtney, to Vicarage of Au-twick. Patron, the Vicar of Clapham, Yorkshire.

Rev. R. J. Crosswell, Vicar of Timberscombe, to be Surrogate, Diocese of Bath and Wells.

Rev. G. De-la-Hay, to Rectory of Luddington-cum-Hemington Patron, the Duke of Buccleuch.

Rev. A. E. D. Disney, Curate of St. Mary's, Leicester, to Rectory of Stoney Stanton, near Hinckley. Patron, the Rector of Sharnford.

Rev. H. D'Ombrain, Rector of Framilode, to Vicarage of Stroud. Patron, the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol.

Rev. P. Ellis, Vicar of Long Compton, to Vicarage of Sowe-alias-Walsgrave. Patron, the Lord Chancellor.

Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, to Vicarage of St. Michael's, Shrewsbury. Patron, the Rev. T. B. Lloyd.

Rev. J. Graham, to be Prebendary of Lichfield Cathedral. Patron, the Bishop.

Rev. O. M. Grindon, to Vicarage of Atworth with South Wraxall. Patrons, the Dean and Chapter of Bristol.

Rev. J. Grundy, Curate of St. Timothy's, Everton, Liverpool, to be Chaplain of Blackburn Workhouse.

Rev. W. J. Lake, to be Incumbent of St. Thomas's, Preston.

Rev. F. S. Lea, Rector of Tedstone Delamere, to be Prebendary of Pratum Majus in Hereford Cathedral.

Rev. H. P. Leakey, Incumbent of Christ Church, Accrington, to Curacy of the Parish Church, Eastbourne, Sussex.

Rev. D. S. Matthew, to be Prebendary of Milton Ecclesia in Lincoln Cathedral.

Rev. F. A. Morgan, Vicar of St. Paul's, Bath, to Vicarage of Chepstow. Patrons, the Simeon Trustees.

Rev. H. D. Nicholson, of Devonport, to be Licensed Preacher in the Diocese of Exeter.

Rev. J. H. Oldroyd, to be Licensed Preacher in the Diocese of Ripon.

Rev. E. V. Pigott, Vicar of Leaton, to Vicarage of Treuthan. Patron the Duke of Sutherland.

Rev. H. E. Postlethwaite, to Vicarage of Lee Brockhurst. Patron, Mrs. Walford.

Rev. E. B. Roe, to Rectory of Frome and Quintin with Evershot. Patron, the Earl of Ilchester.

Right Rev. Bishop Ryan, Rector of Stanhope, to be Rural Dean of Stanhope. Patron, the Bishop of Durham.

Rev. W. J. Skilton, Rector of St. Andrew's, Romford, to Rectory of Baldock, Herts. Patron, the Bishop of St. Albans.

Rev. S. A. Smith, Vicar of All Saints', Shrewsbury, to Vicarage of Tividale. Patron, the Bishop of Lichfield.

Rev. E. H. Taylor, Curate of Torwood, Torquay; to Vicarage of Bridgerule.

Rev. M. H. Umbers, to Perpetual Curacy of Great Wollaston.

Rev. F. W. Vroom, Rector of Richmond, to Rectory of Shediac, in the Diocese of Fredericton.

Rev. G. S. Walker, Curate of St. John's, Ladywood, Birmingham, to Vicarage of Christ Church, Summerfield, Birmingham. Patron, for the first turn, the Vicar of St. John's, Ladywood.

Rev. I. Walton, to Rectory of Ozleworth. Patrons, Mr. T. F. Vizard and Mr. James Clutterbuck, M.D.

Rev. S. B. Westhorp, Rector of Ilston, to be Rural Dean of West Gower, Diocese of St. David's.

Rev. J. P. Young, Vicar of Great Grimsby, to be Prebendary of Leighton Ecclesia in Lincoln Cathedral.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL.—Revs. F. J. Cannon, to Kingstanley; R. Coxwell Rogers, to Dowdeswell; J. G. Derrick, B.A., to St. Luke's, Cheltenham; W. H. Ravenhill, to Dymock.

LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF LICHFIELD.—Rev. H. Wise, to St. Mary's, Lichfield.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF LLANDAFF.—Revs. William Hughes, to Llangeinor; James H. B. Powell, to Goytre; John Waller, B.A., to Dixton.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER.—Revs. T. M. Tozer, to St. Mary's, Newton-in-Mottram; E. H. Vernon, to St. Paul's, Southport; Charles Henry Davidson, M.A., to Parish Church, Prestwich.

LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF RIPON.—Rev. James William Foulston, to St. John-the-Baptist, Newtown, Leeds.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.—Revs. William Harry Arkwright, M.A., to St. Paul's, Walworth; George Edward Jackson, to Holy Trinity, South Wimbledon; Cyrenius John Robinson, B.A., to St. Luke's, Lower Norwood; Hugh Francis Williams, M.A., to St. Philip's, Battersea; Henry James Wright, B.A., to St. Stephen's, Walworth.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF ST. ASAPH.—Revs. R. B. Faulkner, M.A., Derby, to Oswestry; R. J. Palmer, M.A., to Gresford.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER.—Revs. James Reginald Broughton, B.A., to Edgbaston; Harrison Albert Pomeroy, to Martley.

OBITUARY.

Sept. 15, the Rev. Edward George Blomfield, M.A., lately Vicar of Woolston, Southampton, aged 31.

Sept. 17, at Trimmingham Rectory, the Rev. Thomas Romaine Govett, Rector of Trimmingham.

Sept. 17, at Roselyon, Par, the Rev. Frank Garrett, Vicar of St. Mary, Par, aged 50.

Sept. 18, at The Vicarage, the Rev. R. P. Warren, founder and for thirty years Vicar of the Church of the Holy Ascension, Hyde, Fordingbridge, aged 75.

Sept. 18, at Hafod House, Tupsley, the Rev. Charles Lionel Eagles, B.A., J.P., Incumbent of Crasswall, aged 60.

Sept. 19, at 57, Oakley-square, the Rev. John Stapleton Webber, Chaplain of London University College Hospital, aged 40.

Sept. 20, at Cambridge, the Rev. Herbert Field Blackett, M.A., late of the Cambridge Mission to Delhi.

Sept. 20, at the Lodge, Jesus College, Cambridge, the Rev. George Ewes Corrie, D.D., Master of Jesus College, and Rector of Newton-in-the-Isle, in the 93rd year of his age.

Sept. 22, at St. Leonards, suddenly, the Rev. Benjamin Winthrop, J.P., of 82, Cromwell-road, Queen's Gate, South Kensington, and late of Hardenhurst Park, Wiltshire.

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

The Convocations of the Provinces of Canterbury and York have been prorogued to Monday, December 7.

The Rev. John Neale Dalton, M.A., Honorary Chaplain to the Queen, has been appointed to the Canonry of St. George's, Windsor, vacant by the death of Canon Anson.

The Bishop of Worcester on Saturday reopened the church of St. George, Edgbaston, where a lectern called "the temperance eagle, erected to the glory of God, and a thankoffering for the progress of the temperance movement," is a special feature.

The Dean and Chapter of Canterbury have arranged for evening services in the Cathedral every Sunday during the autumn and winter.

The Countess of Ellesmere on Monday laid the foundation stone of a new church at Mosley-common, in the parish of Tydesley, on a site given by the trustees of the late Duke of Bridgwater, who have given £500.

The Bishop of London has addressed a letter to the Church and Stage Guild, which will be considered, together with the answer proposed by the Council, at a meeting on October 1 at Neumeyer Hall.

On St. Matthew's Day a new reredos, erected by Mrs. Spencer Meade in memory of her husband, was unveiled at St. Matthias's, Ilsham, Torquay. It is composed of the purest alabaster, and was designed by Mr. J. L. Pearson.

The following English clergy have promised to take part in the mission to be held in New York in Advent:—Canons Furse (Westminster), Capel Cure (Windsor), and Carter (Truro); and the Revs. Sir J. E. Philipps, J. P. Waldo, J. H. Haslam, J. S. Thornton, and J. N. Thwaites.

The Dean of Ripon has contributed £100 and Lady Mary Vyner £200 to the Wakefield Bishopric Fund, which now amounts to £62,450.

The Rev. A. H. Hawkins, Vicar of Lytham, is a candidate for the office of Proctor in Convocation for the archdeaconry of Lancaster, which has become vacant by the resignation of the Rev. Canon Armstrong, Vicar of Ashton-on-Ribble.

In view of his approaching visitation, the Archbishop of Canterbury has sent to every beneficed clergyman in the diocese a paper containing a list of questions relating to the condition of the churches and schools under their charge, the spiritual needs of their parishes, and other matters bearing on the parochial organisation of the Church. His Grace states that his object is "to obtain such information as may render the visitation effectual for its purposes." The Primate will devote a large portion of his charge at Canterbury to the subject of Disestablishment.

The foundation-stone of the church for the large congregation collected by the Marlborough College Mission, in a populous and newly-built artisan neighbourhood at Tottenham, is to be laid by the Duchess of Albany next Easter. The site has cost £1,899, and the church, designed by Mr. J. E. K. Cutts to hold 730 persons, will need over £3,000 more to pay for its erection.

The election of the Rev. John Wordsworth as Bishop of Salisbury took place during the morning service on Saturday in the Cathedral. After the first lesson the Dean, Canons residentiary (the Hon. and Rev. Canon Gordon, Chancellor Swayne, and the Archdeacon of Dorset) and non-residentiary, a large number of whom were present, proceeded to the Chapter House, where the citation was read by the Chapter clerk, as also the Queen's *congé d'élire*, and the votes being unanimously in favour of the Rev. John Wordsworth, he was declared duly elected. The clergy then returned to the choir where the *Te Deum* was sung, and the service proceeded as usual to the end, when proclamation of the election was made and affixed to the choir gate. Though the consecration is not expected to take place till St. Simon and St. Jude's Day (October 28), the Bishop Designate will preach at the harvest festival in Avebury Church.

The Church of Holy Trinity, Blackheath-hill, Greenwich, has been restored. The nave and chancel have been redecorated, and new choir stalls and a new pulpit have been erected. A sum of over £400 has already been raised for the restoration fund.

A movement is on foot for the erection of a new church to be dedicated to St. Stephen, in the parish of Christ Church, Preston. Towards the cost of erection an anonymous friend has given £2,000, and the Harris trustees have promised £500. Renewed exertions are being made for the erection of the proposed new church at Ribbleton, near Preston, for which a suitable site has been procured. Divine service is now performed in a small and inconvenient structure, which it is intended to replace by a permanent and handsome church as soon as the necessary funds are raised.

Mrs. Haigh, of Crow Nest, has given £1,000 towards the fund for completing the restoration of Dewsbury parish church, the operations at which were about to cease in consequence of inadequate funds. About £10,000 have already been expended.

Previous to the opening of St. David's Diocesan Conference at Carmarthen on Thursday, a special service was held at St. Peter's Church to present a pastoral staff to the Bishop of St. Davids. The presentation was made by Mr. C. E. G. Phillips, Picton Castle, Lord Lieutenant of Haverfordwest, and Dean Allen, of St. Davids. The staff is of singularly beautiful design. In opening the Conference the Bishop expressed confidence in the proper use of the franchise by the agricultural labourers, but expressed a fear of the sinister influence of reckless agitators, who were doing all they could to stir up internecine strife between different classes.

The body of a clergyman, believed to be that of the Rev. William Watkins, of Swansea, with the skull smashed in, was picked up on the rocks by the river Torridge, near Bideford, on Thursday. The deceased had been staying at Bideford for about a week. He left his hotel in the morning for a walk. His hat and umbrella were found near the body. In his pockets were his watch, a £5 note, and a letter, apparently from a brother, Mr. Jonah Watkins, Llandovery, Wales. The deceased was about fifty years of age.

Mr. Chamberlain the other day asked at Glasgow, "Who ever heard of a Nonconformist proprietor who evicted his tenant because he was an Established Churchman?" In answer, a correspondent of the *Standard*, who signs himself "Staffordshire," says—"If Mr. Chamberlain will honour me with a visit, I can show him the best farms in the parish, owned by Churchmen, but let to Nonconformist tenants, and I will introduce him to Churchmen who have been refused farms by Nonconformist landlords. I can also take him to a large colliery, owned by a Nonconformist, where no Churchman can obtain work, and if by chance a man is employed, and it is afterwards found out that he attends church, he is at once dismissed. I can introduce him to several men who have been dismissed simply because they were Churchmen, and especially to a dear, good soul who a short time back was dismissed because he came to Confirmation. He had been employed at the colliery for years, and had been promoted step by step; but then he attended the chapel. He became a Churchman, and as soon as he was confirmed he was ordered to take a subordinate situation, and was finally dismissed."

A correspondent records the advancement, at St. Mary's Church, Grahamstown, of two Kafir deacons to the order of priesthood. There were six priests ordained, four of them being Europeans. There have been for some years several Kafir deacons, but never yet in this diocese any native priests. Including the two now ordained, there have been only three Kafir priests in the whole of the South African province.

Lucinda Lady Jodrell has presented to the parish church of Reepham, in Norfolk, four richly painted windows, from the studio of Mr. Taylor, of Berners-street, in memory of her husband, Sir Edward Repp Jodrell, who was himself a liberal donor to the church during his lifetime.

The Bishop of Peterborough on the 17th inst. opened a new church at Leicester. The church, which is in the Early French style of architecture, has cost over £9,000, and is the sole gift of Miss Barlow, of Leicester, in memory of her late brother, John Clay Barlow. The Bishop of Peterborough, in the course of his sermon, speaking of the methods by which the clergy were to reach the masses, said the enemies of the Church cried out unceasingly about the way in which the bloated wealth of the Church was utilised. He wished to point out that if the whole wealth of the Church were equally divided among the Bishops and clergy it would give but a bare pittance for every one. This wealth of the Church was being increasingly drawn upon year after year as population increased. The original funds of the Church, which were but the accumulation of the individual gifts of pious donors, would be less for the purposes of division next year, and less the year after, as the growing and teeming population of this great country grew and was drawn together in their great towns. If the funds were sufficient to-day, and they were far from that, they would be far less adequate in 10 or 20 years' time; but the fact was that the Church was dividing and subdividing these so-called national and Church funds which the Church held in trust for the nation. This dividing and subdividing had nowhere been done more largely than in Leicester. There were parishes in Leicester when he became Bishop with populations of from 4,000 to 6,000 people which now had populations of from 15,000 to 18,000. This was the third church in Leicester during his episcopate which was entirely the gift of one single person. At the luncheon which followed, the Bishop of Peterborough, in replying to the toast of his health, referred to the very cordial reception which had been given to him on his reappearance and to large works undertaken since his illness. Speaking afterwards at a meeting on behalf of home missions, the Bishop said the incomes of the incumbents of Leicester amounted on the average to rather under than over £300 per annum, and it was obviously impossible for an incumbent with that income to pay one or two curates, who were absolutely necessary for the work. One great fact which showed the great advantage of the Church over voluntaryism was this, that the great mass of population in great towns who most needed the services of the Christian ministry were the least aware of their needs, and consequently the least willing to provide for their spiritual wants. The Church had a special mission to go and reclaim these lapsed masses. The great battle of the Church would be largely fought out in their large towns, and the result would greatly depend upon the issue of these struggles. Those in rural and country parishes were by no means uninterested in the struggle, for upon it would depend whether or not they would be left with their parish churches. The funds of the Church had been extravagantly overrated and were not sufficient to supply the required number of ministers for the population, and these funds must be and were being supplied by the liberality of Churchmen and Churchwomen.

Miss Webster, of Ripple Lodge, Malvern Link, writes:—"May I ask you kindly to give me space for a few words on behalf of our missionaries? I want to ask people who have no further use for their old newspapers and magazines to post them regularly to some one or more of our missionaries. It will give me much pleasure to supply the name and address of a missionary, together with postal rate, &c., to anyone who will write to me and enclose a stamped envelope for reply. Between 2,000 and 3,000 newspapers and magazines are now being regularly sent abroad by friends of our Society (Mission Parcel Society), but we receive more requests for 'reading matter' than we can supply. The letters of missionaries testify how thoroughly this little act of kindness is appreciated. To those who cannot undertake to post papers *regularly* (but only occasionally), names of hospitals, orphanages, clubs, reading-rooms (abroad or at home), can be given where such papers and magazines will be gladly welcomed."

The case against the Rev. James Bell Cox, perpetual curate of St. Margaret's Church, Prince's-road, Liverpool, at the suit of Mr. James Hakes, surgeon, of Liverpool, was on Thursday advanced a stage at York Minster, before the Rev. E. S. Carter, of York, acting as Surrogate for Lord Penzance, President of the York Chancery Court. The Registrar of the Court (Mr. H. A. Hudson) appeared in his official capacity, and Mr. Lawton, proctor (instructed by Mr. Girdlestone, solicitor, London), represented the promoter. Before the defendant was called, the Registrar said he would read some new rules and orders made by Lord Penzance for regulating the practice of the Court, in case of disobedience to monition. He then read the following rules:—(1) In case of any monition issued by the said Court, the party complaining thereof or his proctor or solicitor shall serve upon the defendant or respondent personally, or by any form of substituted service, which shall have been specially ordered by Court upon cause shown, a statement in writing of the particular facts or conduct of the defendant or respondent which are charged as constituting disobedience to the monition with positive averments of time and place, and shall add thereto a notice in writing to the defendant or respondent that upon the Court day which shall happen next after the expiration of fourteen clear days from the time of such service he shall apply to the Court to enforce obedience to the monition. (2) Such statement and notice, with one or more affidavits in proof of same, and such statement and affidavits, together with an affidavit certifying that the same has been duly served upon the defendant or respondent, shall be deposited by the said party complaining to the Registrar of the Court. (3) If the defendant or respondent desires to contest such application as aforesaid, he must tender to the Court on the said Court day a statement in writing of the facts, if any, which he disputes, together with an affidavit or affidavits in support of such dispute, and the ground, if any, upon which he opposes the making of any order for enforcing obedience as aforesaid, and prepare and give a copy thereof to the party complaining, his proctor, or solicitor. If the defendant or respondent has not previously appeared in the suit, he must enter an appearance in the suit either personally or by his proctor or solicitor in the usual way before such statement can be received by the Court, and he can be allowed to contest the making of any such order as aforesaid. (4) The Judge, after considering the statement and affidavits of the party complaining, and the counter statement, if any, of the respondent or defendant, will make, or his Surrogate, acting under his direction, will make such order as may be needful, if any, for the determination of any matters of law or fact which have been raised, and which in the opinion of the Judge require to be determined, or in the absence of any such matters, will dispose of the case as justice and the law and practice of the Court may require. (5) In case of alleged disobedience to any decree or order of suspension made or issued by the Court, a course similar to the foregoing is to be followed. (6) The above rules and orders shall not apply to the case of any disobedience occurring before the issue or making thereof. (7) In respect of any matter not provided for by these rules or orders, or in case of any difficulty arising with regard to the application or interpretation thereof, application must be made to the Court. Mr. Lawton then stated that he appeared for the promoter of the suit against the Rev. James Bell Cox, and he introduced monition issued against him to restrain from Ritualistic practices, with an affidavit and personal service endorsed thereon. He prayed that the certificate of monition might be continued to the 22nd of October next. The Surrogate granted the prayer.

The Carlisle Diocesan Church Conference began its sittings in the Oratory of Carlisle Cathedral on Thursday. The Bishop of Carlisle presided, and there was a large attendance of clerical and lay members. The President, in his opening address, said he confessed he met the Conference with a certain feeling of anxiety with regard to the particular epoch of the history of the Church of England which we had now reached. The Church and State were bound up together, and that which affected one must of necessity affect the other. The State was undeniably passing through a remarkable crisis. It might lead to the strengthening of what was good

in our Constitution and the getting rid of what was bad. We might be on the eve of wholesome reforms. The future of England under our democratic arrangements might be more continuously happy and honourable than the past had been. At the same time this might fail to be so. We might find that the balance of the Constitution had been deranged. Quiet work and wisdom and honesty might possibly find themselves at a discount as compared with the mere strength of majorities. Revolutionary measures might find favour, and there might be no sufficient power to control them. He was disposed to hope for the best, to put confidence in his countrymen, and still more to have faith in God. But the critical character of the times with regard to the state of England could not be denied by any thoughtful man, to whatever political party he might belong, and the State and Church being bound together by many ties, it was impossible for the times to be critical with regard to the State without at the same time being critical with regard to the Church. There could be no doubt whatever that one of the questions which many would desire to press to the front when the next Parliament assembled would be the destruction of that union between Church and State. He did not think that this great revolution could be really a practical question in the first Parliament under the new condition of things, if for no other reason than that there was no statesman at all likely to be at the head of affairs who approved of the revolution or would be willing to take part in it. Nevertheless there was abundant indication that the question would not be permitted to sleep. If not within the range of practical politics, it would be within the much wider range of unpractical politics, and for a certain class of politicians this latter situation would be as agreeable and as profitable as the former. There was no obvious reason why the proposal to destroy the national Church should be more agreeable to the new rural voters than to those who had possessed the franchise hitherto. On the other hand, the poorer inhabitants of the country knew better than others what the comfort was of a resident clergyman with his family in every village. It was difficult to see what the inhabitants of a country village could possibly have to gain by the shutting up of the parish church and the confiscation of the property which enabled a man of education to be constantly among them. On the other hand, it was easy to believe that some prospects of advantage would be held out, and perhaps it was not very hard to guess what those prospects would be. He urged upon the Conference the great importance of making the truth concerning the national Church known, exposing errors and misrepresentations, taking care that the poor should not in ignorance throw away their birthright. He laid stress also on the importance of not connecting the great Church question with any one political party. Passing on to speak of his recent correspondence with Lord Ebury, published in the *Times*, his Lordship said it was quite possible there were in the Church some clergymen whose hearts were not loyal to the Church. But he believed them to be few. When he took a general view of the Church and her ministry, and her place in the country, he tried to look away from or over blemishes or defects which he could not deny. In town and country he saw the same thing going on—work, work, work, by day and in the evening, on the Lord's Day and throughout the week, men for the most part poorly paid giving themselves up without reserve for the good of those to whom they ministered. This was the picture which remained when he had removed all spots and patches which interfered with its completeness here and there. He deprecated on behalf of the nation, on behalf of the great English-speaking portion of Christendom, nay, on the part of all Christendom itself, any attempt to tamper with the foundation upon which this national Church stood, and when we knew that there were those among us who were willing on divers pretences, or moved by divers arguments, to destroy the Church of England as such, to reduce her to a sect, to strip her of her means of ministering to the poor and needy, then he said, "Do not let us be divided among ourselves; do not let us look too keenly upon and expose too freely faults which we know better than our enemies can tell us; but rather let us join heart to heart and hand to hand in defence of our great English inheritance, endeavouring the while to mend what is broken and heal what is diseased and improve what is faulty, and so hand on to future ages the reformed branch of the Catholic Church which by God's providence has been established in this kingdom." On the motion of Mr. Crewdson, of Kendal, seconded by Mr. Cropper, M.P., a resolution was passed by the Conference thanking the Bishop for his letter in reply to the manifesto on political lying issued by the Rev. H. M. Kennedy. The afternoon was devoted to discussing the proper attitude and action of Churchmen in view of recent political changes. Resolutions were passed declaring it to be the duty of Churchmen not to vote for candidates who were in favour of Disestablishment, and that it was incumbent upon them also to counteract the falsehoods current on the subject of the Church's relation to the people by the active dissemination of the truth, in which the clergy and the laity everywhere should be called upon to assist.

An interesting case of intercommunion of churches took place on Sunday last, when the Missions to Seamen Chaplain at Southampton officiated on board the United States frigate *Pensacola*, at anchor in Southampton Water. In the absence of an Established Church in the United States, the captains of ships of war carrying chaplains select ministers of any Christian denomination they personally prefer; but the *Pensacola* does not carry a chaplain, and the service held on board was that of the Church of America, or, as it is officially called, the Protestant Episcopal Church of that country. It need hardly be said that the Missions to Seamen chaplain was cordially received on board, and that there was a very hearty service, such as seamen of the United States, as well as of our own country, lustily join in when the Book of Common Prayer is made use of by the officiating minister, whether lay or clerical.

We understand that Admiral R. Duncan Grant, C.B., who was to have taken part in the Church Congress as a speaker on the Church in the Royal Navy, will be unable to fulfil his engagement, his public duties as Superintendent of Devonport Dockyard requiring his presence at that port. The opportunity is thus offered of repairing the omission of the spiritual needs of seamen in the mercantile marine, in yachts, and in fishing vessels from the discussion at the Church Congress.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN AND ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

The blundering ignorance of the late President of the Board of Trade in scientific matters has often received conspicuous illustration. His bigoted intolerance of scientific improvement is well exemplified in his treatment of the question of Electric Lighting, which has been the subject of an important discussion in the Mechanical Section of the British Association.

Dr. Lewis Edmunds opened the subject: "There was," he observed, "an almost unlimited demand for electricity in preference to gas, even at a much higher price, and if the electric lighting companies had been allowed such freedom as the gas and water companies received in the earliest stages of their development, we should have been by this time well on the way to the general employment of electricity. The stagnation arose not from the fact that electric lighting could not prove remunerative as a commercial undertaking if left to its own free development as most other industries had been, but because electric lighting, under the conditions imposed by Act of Parliament, was commercially impossible. The public supply of electricity was now regulated by the Electric Lighting Act of 1882, and so long as that Act remained unrepealed or unamended there was no opportunity for great development in electric lighting. The grievance lies in the section of the Act which deals with the compulsory purchase by local authorities. The operation of this section had this effect—if the enterprise in the direction of electric lighting was unsuccessful it would be left on the hands of the promoters; if successful it would be compulsorily bought by the local authority for the mere value of the plant then in actual use, just when it had become a valuable property, and the investor was beginning to reap the full advantage of his investment. The hardship of an investor in electric lighting shares did not end here. Suppose the venture did not pay after twenty-one years, but there was still a prospect of making it succeed in time, there was no inducement to continue it. Even then the prospect held out by the Act was compulsory purchase by the local authority at the end of any seven years' period after this first period of twenty-one years. It would not pay investors unless they got a monopoly for a much longer term. The local authorities were not fit persons to undertake these speculative enterprises even if they were justified in using the ratepayers' money for doutful results. The consequence was that, in its anxiety to prevent a monopoly, the Legislature had entirely deprived the general public of the comfort and security, and other advantages, which the electric light offered over all other forms of illumination."

Captain Douglas Galton said the action of the Government had tended entirely to stop the progress of electric lighting. It seemed to be most unjust and most unfair for the nascent industry to be weighted as it was by the Board of Trade regulations. It was entirely the action of Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Thomas Farrer.

ENGINEERING, ANCIENT AND MODERN.

At the recent meeting of the British Association at Aberdeen, the President of the Mechanical Science section, Mr. B. Baker, M.I.C.E., made the following observations in the course of his opening address:—

"I have no doubt that as able and enterprising engineers existed prior to the age of steam and steel as exists now, and their work was as beneficial to mankind, though different in direction. In the important matter of water supply to towns, indeed, I doubt whether, having reference to facility of execution, even greater works were not done 2,000 years ago than now. Herodotus speaks of a tunnel 8ft. square, and nearly a mile long, driven through a mountain in order to supply the city of Samos with water; and his statement, though long doubted, was verified in 1882 through the abbot of a neighbouring cloister accidentally unearthing some stone slabs. The German Archæological Society sent out Ernst Fabricius to make a complete survey of the work, and the record reads like that of a modern engineering undertaking. Thus, from a covered reservoir in the hills proceeded an arched conduit about 1,000yds. long, partly driven as a tunnel and partly executed on the 'cut and cover' system adopted on the London Underground Railway. The tunnel proper, more than 1,100yds. in length, was hewn by hammer and chisel through the solid limestone rock. It was driven from the two ends like the great Alpine tunnels, without intermediate shafts, and the engineers of 2,400 years ago might well be congratulated for getting only some dozen feet out of level and little more out of line. From the lower end of the tunnel branches were constructed to supply the city mains and fountains, and the explorers found ventilating shafts and side entrances, earthenware socket-pipes with cement joints, and other interesting details connected with the water supply of towns.

"In the matter of masonry bridges, also, as great works were undertaken some centuries ago as in recent times. Sir John Rennie stated, in his presidential address at the Institute of Civil Engineers, that the bridge across the Dee at Chester was the 'largest stone arch on record.' That is not so. The Dee Bridge consists of a single segmental arch 200ft. span and 42ft. rise; but across the Adda, in Northern Italy, was built, in the year 1377—more than 500 years ago—a similar segmental arch bridge of no less than 237ft. span and 68ft. rise. Ferario not long since published an account of this, for the period, colossal work, from which it would appear that its life was but thirty-nine years, the bridge having been destroyed for military reasons on December 21, 1416. I believe our American cousins claim to have built the biggest existing stone arch bridge in the world—that across the Cabin John's Creek; but the span, after all, is only 215ft., or 10 per cent. smaller than the 500-year-old bridge."

In a later portion of his address Mr. Baker, who is jointly with Sir John Fowler the engineer of the new Forth Bridge, made some remarks on certain novel applications of hydraulic power:—"I should be sorry indeed to have anything to do with building the Forth Bridge if hydraulic appliances were not at hand to do a giant's work. More than 42,000 tons of steel plates and bars have to be bent, planed, drilled, and riveted together before or after erection, and hydraulic appliances are used throughout. A total length of no less than 60 miles of steel plates, ranging in thickness from 1¼in. to ⅞in., have to be bent to radii of from 6ft. to 9in., which is done in heavy cast-iron dies squeezed together by four rams of 24in. in diameter, and the same stroke. With the ordinary working pressure of 1,000lb. per square inch, the power of the press is thus about 1,750 tons. Some 3,000 pieces, shaped like the lid of a box, 15in. by 12in. wide, with a 3in. deep rim all round, were required to be made of ½in. steel plate, and this was easily effected in two heats by a couple of strokes of a 14in. ram.

"Hydraulic appliances are also an indispensable part of the scheme for erecting the great 1,700ft. spans. Massive girders will be put together at a low level, and be hoisted as high as the top of St. Paul's Cathedral by hydraulic power. Continuous girders, nearly a third of a mile in length, will be similarly raised. Not only the girders, but workmen, their sheds, cranes, and appliances will be carried up steadily and imperceptibly as the work of erection proceeds, on platforms weighing in some instances more than 1,000 tons. Every rivet in the bridge will be closed up by hydraulic power, the machines being in many instances of novel design, specially adapted to the work.

"Not merely in the superstructure, but in the construction of the foundations, were hydraulic appliances of a novel character indispensable at the Forth Bridge. Huge wrought-iron caissons or cylinders, 70ft. diameter and 72ft. high, were taken up and set down as readily as a man would handle a bucket. In sinking these caissons through the mud and clay of the Forth compressed air was used. When the boulder-clay was reached the labour of excavating the extremely hard and tenacious material in the compressed-air chamber proved too exhausting, pickaxes were of little avail, and the Italian labourers, who were chiefly employed, lost heart over the job altogether. But a giant power was at hand, and only required tools fit for the work. Spades with hydraulic rams in the hollow handles were made, and, with the roof of the compressed air-chamber to thrust against, the workmen had merely to hold the handle vertically, turn a little tap, and down went the spade with a force of three tons into the hitherto impracticable clay as sweetly as a knife into butter."

A BOOKSELLER OF ROTTERDAM.

At the head of the Leuvehaven, the magnificent canal which runs, or rather stagnates, at right angles to the Boompjes, is a brilliantly-lighted Parisian-looking Passage which could hardly be more out of place in one of the dead cities. Close at hand are the Groote Kerke and the market-place, with the statue of Erasmus, Rotterdam's one great alumnus. A tangle of grimy streets and brown canals hedge in this double row of plate-glass shops. The Arcade is a favourite evening lounge of the giddy youth who sit all day in merchants' and shippers' offices. When there is a touch of rawness in the air and almost empty tram-cars run along the edges of the canals, the Passage is usually crowded. At the end a flight of steps leads to a wide canal, superlatively picturesque in the gloom of a moonless night. The reflections of the lamps shine like fixed stars in the dark water, upon which there is not a ripple; the anchored barges, by day brilliant with green hulls and yellow sails, lie huddled together in dark masses, the darker for being in the shadow of the tall grey and brown houses, fantastic with crow-stepped gables and broken pediments.

Shops hereabouts are few, and are mainly devoted to the sale of schnapps and the very yellow cigars which find such unaccountable favour in Holland. Thus it is the more surprising to find in a narrow stony street, entered just beyond the shadow of a huge windmill, the shop of a second-hand bookseller. "Second-hand" is a very elastic term as applied to books: here they are more than that; like Old Parr, they are "old, old, very old." There is little outside to suggest the delights of the interior. The small dimly lighted window is full of *oude gravuren*, and, were it not that the half-open door reveals long rows of battered shelves crammed with books, we might pass it by as an old print-shop unworthy the attention of the book-hunter. Such a glimpse would fire the blood of any enthusiast who lives upon black-letter folios and classic duodecimos.

Behind a long counter at one extremity of the shop sits Jonathan Oldbuck himself. He is short and portly, like the typical Mynheer of melodrama whom one so rarely meets upon what should be his native heath; his face, hands, and arms (for he is in his shirt-sleeves) are grimed with the dust of books—the dust of venerable Netherlandish *casteelen* and of the gloomy panelled and leather-hung houses of Leyden and Amsterdam: for even Dutch cleanliness cannot save unused books from dirt. His cumbrous horn-framed spectacles are pushed high on his forehead; and his small black eyes, shaded by bushy brows, twinkle with the good-humour characteristic of the really bookish man. The man and his shop would have delighted Southey or Dr. Hill Burton. Southey, indeed, must often have ransacked dens such as this; for does he not tell, in a letter to Caroline Bowles, of bringing home from these very latitudes a chest full of ancient folios enriched with views of the churches and châteaux in the Low Countries? Folios here are as blades of grass in a meadow. Upon the shelves there are long lines of them; the floor and chairs are heaped up with their portly carcases; the ancient oaken stair which leads from the shop to an inner library is so cumbered that one has to pick one's way like a cat among puddles. Here would be pleasure and learned excitement for a month; for the owner of this lore tells us that he has 20,000 volumes, nearly half of them in folio. Communication with this happy person is a little cumbrous; for while he has a reading knowledge of seven or eight languages, he finds it difficult to speak anything but his native Dutch. A dexterous mixture of French, English, Dutch, and Spanish, with a few Latinities thrown in, enables us to jog along comfortably, if not very fluently.

Few of the books are sumptuous or precious by reason of binding or typography. There is a sprinkling of Aldines and many Elzevirs, with a small library from the presses of Christopher Plantin, the famous Court printer of Antwerp; where his office, on the Marché du Vendredi, is, most happily, still extant. These Plantins are mainly in Latin and Spanish, and many of them retain their original bindings of oaken boards. But the real treasures of the shop, to those whose bent that way lies, are the books upon magic, astrology, alchemy, and the black arts generally. The library of some old transmuter of metals and compounder of philtres might have been emptied bodily here just as it was removed from the mystic chamber in which the secret of secrets had been practised. If one be at all imaginative, it is possible to fancy that one smells the powdered lizards and the pungent odour of the deadly herbs distilling over the sorcerer's slow fire. Here are fanciful interpretations of all the secrets of the universe: treatises upon magic—black, white, and natural; recipes for the compounding of love-potions; ponderous Latin quartos upon the art of transmuting metals; disquisitions upon the hidden meaning of numbers; elaborate calculations for the casting of horoscopes; explanations of the divinatory art; together with many of the fat duodecimos (which would ill bear translation) upon all sorts of occult sciences, that issued in great numbers from the French press during the seventeenth century. It is remarkable that most of the books of any antiquity upon these subjects were written either in Latin or French. Within the last two centuries many have been printed in English, German, Spanish, and Italian; but they are nearly always translations or adaptations of the earlier tomes, large numbers of which appear to have been published in the Low Countries, if we may judge from those that have been preserved. Some of the magical books reposing upon these dusty shelves, their bindings tattered and broken, contain engravings of the necromancer's equipment—magic wands, divining-rods, gabardines over which incense must be burned and incantations uttered, girdles inscribed with hieroglyphics and the signs of the Zodiac.

The temporary owner of this quaint literature takes the pride of an olden bookseller in his possessions. He enjoys a bookish chat over some of his curious volumes, and appears to have no overwhelming anxiety to reduce his stock. Like his fellows of eighty years ago, he reads his books, or such of them as take his fancy; and the wealth of forgotten lore stowed away in his grey head would have made his fortune as a man of letters. He lives in the past; his knowledge of the contemporary world being confined principally to books. His acquaintance with forgotten literature may perhaps, upon occasion, be awkward for the modern compiler, since he can tell to a chapter or two whence the material has been obtained for the process euphemistically described by an eminent practitioner therein as the "emptying of clumsy demi-johns into neat modern flasks." To him the world of black-letter chronicles is far more fascinating than the world of men; and some few there are who may deem him in the right.—*St. James's Gazette.*

LAPLACE'S NEBULAR THEORY.

A writer in the *Times*, discussing Laplace's theory of the formation of the solar system, observes that the facts which the nebular hypothesis of Laplace was intended to explain are simply these:—The planets travel the same way round, and in nearly the same plane (all but the zone of minor planets, whose entire mass is less than the tenth part of our earth's). The sun turns the same way on his axis, so do all the planets whose rotation has been observed; all the moons travel round their ruling planets the same way—except the moons of Uranus and the moon of Neptune; and these bodies, travelling as they do at the very outskirts of our system, may be regarded as having, perhaps, been exposed to disturbing influences. Laplace suggested from these features that the whole mass of matter out of which the solar system was formed was once an immense disc, extending beyond the path of the remotest planet now known, and rotating as one gigantic whole. Starting from this assumption, all the features of the solar system mentioned above would follow. The ring would gradually shrink as its heat was radiated into space, until the outer parts, retaining their original velocity, could no longer cohere, but would be left outside in the form of a gigantic ring. This ring, as it further shrank (along its length now), would dissolve into fragments, and these would eventually coalesce into a single planet, the outermost. Then another would be formed in the same way, and another, and yet another, until at last there would be left, in the middle, the great mass which was afterwards to govern that family of worlds. Each planet, at its beginning, being like the original gaseous disc, would go through a similar process of contraction, and form as many bodies subsidiary to itself as its quantity of matter and the conditions under which it had itself been formed would allow. The process would fail in some cases, and so several small planets would be formed instead of one large one, as we see in the case of the asteroids; or, as in the case of Saturn's system, a ring or set of rings (rings of small satellites, as we now know) would form instead of a single large satellite.

Laplace's theory, if we grant its initial assumption, accounts fairly for the features of the solar system. But, unfortunately, the initial assumption, on which the whole theory depends, is utterly inadmissible. A solid disc of steel, extending only to the earth's orbit, could not move as a single mass. If the central part of such a disc—say a region as large as the sun's globe—were set rotating as by some mighty hand, the outer parts would not feel the impulse until more than ten months had elapsed. But imagine a disc extending to the orbit of the planet Neptune, 30 times further from the centre than is the earth's path. Imagine, further, such a disc-shaped region of space, not occupied by a mighty mass of steel, but by a vaporous mass many thousand times more tenuous than the air we breathe. It is such a disc that we have to imagine, according to Laplace's theory, rotating as a single mass. No argument is really needed to show that this is absolutely impossible. Astronomers and physicists have been apparently afraid to acknowledge that so vast a vaporous disc, rarer than the rarest known gas, could have no coherence whatever, and could not possibly even begin to behave as Laplace's theory required.

LAND TRANSFER.

The Duke of Marlborough, writing to the *Times*, says:—

"No country in the civilised or uncivilised world possesses so barbarous and extravagant a system of land transfer as this country. A brokerage of 10 to 15 per cent. and a delay of three to six months weigh like a tombstone on every transfer operation in the land market. Both Lord Westbury's Acts of 1862, as well as Lord Cairns's far more intelligent measure of 1875, have been successfully burked by the profession, who were also unanimous before the Commission in their opposition to any real reform of their conveyancing system.

"A fertile expedient with the legal profession is to enter heartily into the consideration of a measure of reform, but at the same time to lead the inquiry so that the reform when carried shall—first, either leave an undefended spot for hamstringing the measure afterwards, or else, secondly, to insure that the complication of the new system shall be assured by the involutions which it is caused to contain. I venture to believe this is true of every Act of Parliament which affects the interest of this class.

"The greatest enemy of the land and the most deadly friend to the landed interest is to be found in the iron grasp of the legal profession on the title-deeds to real property. We do not require to nationalise the land; we do require to nationalise the title to land. Thousands of acres of land are in the market, tens of thousands more could be in the market to-morrow if only there were any purchasers for lots, great or small. As a fact, no one will buy at any price—owing, first, to the badness of the times; secondly, the steady and continual attacks on land on the 'ransom theory' doctrine; and, thirdly, because you cannot transfer it except at enormous cost and after interminable delays extending over many months.

"Lawyers loot from every wretched corporation or company that has to come before Parliament for powers to deal with landed interests. Can it be supposed that real property can stand, besides these burdens, the exceptionally heavy taxation to which it is subjected for other purposes, and also again be heavily mulcted every time an operation of any description is effected on this form of property? Is it not conceivable that the real value of the land to the people at large is completely shrouded by these exceptional disadvantages which it labours under?

"This profession has signalised itself in history by fastening on this country, even down to the present day, one of the most fatal inheritances of middle-aged feudalism—namely, an incomprehensible business language drawn from mediæval times, together with the most oppressive and costly land system that has ever prevailed in Europe."

THE COURT.

Divine service was conducted at Balmoral Castle on Sunday morning in presence of the Queen and Royal Family, and the members of the household. The Rev. A. Campbell officiated. Her Majesty, accompanied by Prince and Princess Henry of Battenberg and the Hereditary Grand Duke of Hesse, visited the Duchess of Albany in the afternoon.

The Prince of Wales will not return to England before the middle of next month, and the Princess, who is to remain at Copenhagen for another week, will probably pay a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh at Eastwell Park, before going to Sandringham.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Town Council of Edinburgh has resolved to erecti n St. Giles's Cathedral a memorial to the late Dr. William Chambers. The memorial will take the form of a statue to be placed in the old Session-house, which was in former times used as a chapel.

Eton College reopened on Wednesday with the return of the lower boys, an additional week's holiday having been given to the students in honour of the marriage of Princess Beatrice. The fifth form assembled on Thursday, and the sixth form yesterday.

The exhibition of £10 offered by the council of the Royal College of Music to be competed for by candidates at the entrance examination for the Christmas term has been allotted to Emily Marguerite Himing, formerly pupil in the Crystal Palace Company's School of Art, Science, and Literature.

The late Alderman Fisher, formerly Mayor of Sheffield, left the sum of £8,000 available for founding a charity for the Unitarian body, of which he was a member, the bequest, however, not to be available until his wife's death. Mrs. Fisher has just died and the bequest, therefore, comes into operation.

The vacancy in the Roman Catholic Archbishopric of St. Andrew's, Edinburgh, has been filled up by the appointment of the Rev. Dr. William Smith, of the Pro-Cathedral, Edinburgh. The last Archbishop was Dr. Strain, who died in 1883.

William John Smith, who, on Friday, pleaded guilty before Mr. Justice Hawkins at the Central Criminal Court to falsely pretending to be a clergyman, and performing the marriage ceremony in that capacity, was on Saturday sentenced by the presiding judge to one month's imprisonment without hard labour. By a statute passed during the reign of George IV. the accused was liable to be transported for fourteen years. The punishment fixed by the existing law is two years' hard labour, but a marriage solemnised under such circumstances is stated to be legal.

The Lord Mayor on Saturday afternoon opened the Queen's Park and West London Industrial and Fine Art Exhibition, which has been organised with a view to the encouragement of inventive skill, excellence of workmanship, and the wise employment of the spare hours of workmen.

Viscount and Lady Cranbook were present at the opening of the Harold Park, Low Moor, near Bradford, on Saturday. The park is named after the late Hon. Harold Gathorne Hardy, and to his memory a handsome monumental granite fountain, the result of a public subscription, has been erected in the grounds. There was an immense concourse of spectators, and after addresses had been presented, Lord Cranbrook spoke of the long and happy connection which had existed between his family and the Low Moor Iron-works, and the good work which his son had always rendeavoured to perform in advancing the moral and religious well-being of the community.

The death is announced of Charles John Shore, second Baron of Teignmouth, which took place at Palmerston-place, Edinburgh. The deceased was born in Calcutta in 1796, his father being Governor-General of India. He was educated at Cambridge and Oxford, and obtained the degrees of F.R.S., D.C.L., and LL.D. From 1838 to 1841 he represented Marylebone in the Conservative interest. He took a very active part in the Mendicity Society, London, and the Ragged Schools, Bristol. He was at one time deputy-lieutenant and justice of the peace for the North Riding of Yorkshire, and during that period took great interest in prison reform. He is succeeded by his eldest son, the Hon. Charles John, who was born in 1840.

A representative gathering of temperance reformers assembled on Saturday, at the Dalrymple Home for Inebriates, at Rickmansworth, to welcome Dr. Joseph Parrish, president of the American Association for the Cure of Inebriates, who is in this country on a tour of inspection of institutions devoted to the reclamation of drunkards. Among those present on the occasion were Dr. Norman Kerr, president of the Society for the Study and Cure of Inebriety; Lord Ebury, Mr. Waller, United States Consul-General, and members of the ministerial, medical, and military professions.

On Monday morning all the skilled workmen employed at Messrs. Armstrong and Mitchell's Elswick Works, Newcastle, went to work, and now the whole of this vast establishment has resumed its normal busy aspect.

John Campbell Shairp, Principal of the United College of St. Salvator and St. Leonard, St. Andrews, at Ormsary, Argyleshire, died last week. Principal Shairp had been in somewhat delicate health for some time, but it was only within the past few days that his condition created anxiety to his friends. He was appointed Principal in 1868, and with his decease, it is understood, falls the double Principalship in St. Andrews University. The late Principal also held the office of professor of poetry at Oxford University, and was the author of *Kilmahoe: a Highland Poem*, and several well-known works bearing upon poetic studies. In politics he was a Conservative.

Tenders for Treasury bills to the amount of £1,195,000 will be received at the Bank of England on the 1st prox. at one o'clock. The bills will be dated the 7th of October next, and will be payable at three or six months after date, at the option of the persons tendering.

A considerable crowd of persons assembled on Tuesday to welcome Mrs. Georgina Weldon on her release from Holloway Gaol. They greeted her with loud cheering, and accompanied her in a waggonette, from which, near the entrance to the Green-park, they removed the horses, and then drew the carriage into Hyde-park, where Mrs. Weldon addressed them at some length.

Professor De Chaumont delivered the inaugural address at the eighth annual meeting of the Sanitary Congress, which opened at Leicester on Tuesday. He remarked that as a nation we were paying much for our sanitary shortcomings—not so much as we once did, but still a large sum, which might be reduced with improved sanitary administration. We might, however, take comfort from the improvement already effected, much of which was due to the increasing well-being of the poorer classes in spite of the outcry about depression of trade. Such ebbs and flows were inevitable, but on the whole the people generally were better off now than they had been within any period for which we had reliable records. The health of large towns was better than might be expected from the overcrowding which occurred, but most sanitarians believed that the death-rate could be reduced to 15 per 1,000. The large death-rate among children was a blot on our social system. Quarantine regulations were powerless against cholera either by land or sea, but hygienic measures were of the greatest importance. In conclusion, the President warmly advocated vaccination. He said—I take this opportunity of making it distinctly understood what my views are—viz., that vaccination is one of the greatest boons ever conferred on humanity, and in saying this I believe I express the views of the council of this institute. This town has constituted itself a principal centre of opposition to vaccination, and I believe that you insist that ordinary sanitation is sufficient to prevent small-pox. With special regulations and strict isolation I believe you have been able to keep the town very free from it. I should be but a bad sanitarian if I did not recognise the value of both these measures, but I would point out that you are working now with a population that is for the most part already vaccinated. What it may be when an unvaccinated population has accumulated is a very different thing, and I fear you will have a rude awakening. It is an entire mistake to suppose that a prophylactic measure, such as vaccination, is antagonistic to general hygiene; on the contrary, they go hand in hand. We are now too fully convinced of the advantages and paramount importance of general sanitation to be likely to fall so far back into error as to neglect it. The results obtained in the past are but an earnest of what may be done in the future, but our labours must be unremitting, and we must take as our motto—

"Count nothing done while aught remains to do."

The address was warmly applauded at its close. After its conclusion, a vote of thanks to the President was moved by Mr. T. T. Paget, Deputy Lieutenant and M.P. for the county, which was seconded by the Mayor.

An exciting scene was witnessed at Burdett-road, in the East-end of London on Sunday morning. There was a large meeting of Social Democrats and others called to protest against the action of the police in suppressing open-air meetings recently held in that locality, and as the processionists approached they found a large number of officers keeping the road clear. On the proceedings being commenced, the first speaker was immediately apprehended, and amid much excitement, other persons were taken into custody. The crowd dispersed after the resolution of the day had been carried amid cheers. On Monday, before Mr. Saunders, at the Thames Police Court, several of the Socialists were charged with obstructing the police while endeavouring to keep clear the thoroughfare at the corner of Dod-street and Burdett-road, Limehouse, where an enormous gathering had assembled with banners for the purpose of delivering speeches on social subjects of an exciting character. For the defence Dr. Aveling said it was arranged beforehand that the speakers should try and enforce the right of speaking on the spot. But every attempt was made by the accused to prevent the crowd from obstructing. One of the accused, Lewis Lyons, who was charged with kicking a policeman, was sentenced to two months' imprisonment with hard labour; some others were fined 40s., with the alternative of a month's imprisonment. This case led to the arrest of Mr. William Morris, author of the *Earthly Paradise*, the treasurer of the Social Democratic League. As soon as the magistrate's decision was given, those who had been accused and a large number of persons in the body of the court called out "Shame." Mr. Morris, it was said, was one of those who refused to cease hissing, and when a policeman tried to get him out Mr. Morris became very violent, and struck him a blow in the chest, and also broke the strap of his helmet. Mr. Morris denied the charge, but confessed that his feelings got the better of him, and he cried out "Shame." He was eventually discharged.

During the past twenty-eight years the estate of the Corporation in the City has more than doubled itself in value. In 1856 the general rents realised £49,288 1s. 10½d., but in 1884 they produced £108,098 18s. 11½d. The rents of properties of the Corporation in the counties of Middlesex and Surrey have not expanded themselves in the same proportion. In 1856 they brought in £10,421 4s. 5d., and in 1884 they realised £16,956 1s. 2½d. The expenses of the civil government of the City have considerably increased since 1856. In that year they amounted to £38,258 10s., and in 1884 to £60,559 9s. 11d. The Lord Mayor's allowance in 1856 was £5,997 8s. 4d., but in 1884 it was £10,000. The rents and quit rents of the Bridge House Estates in 1856 amounted to £33,419 14s. 10d., and in 1884 to £74,699 14s. In the former year the salaries and payments to officers in respect to the work of the trust amounted to £1,266 17s. 8d., and in 1884 to £2,248.

A correspondent, says the *Law Journal*, brings to light with a show of triumph what he calls a "forgotten law" of 59 George III. cap. 12, sections 12 and 13, by which churchwardens and overseers of the parish may, with the consent of the parishioners, purchase out of the rates twenty acres of land, to be let to the poor at a reasonable rent. The provision in question belongs to a series of statutes by which parish lands are let as allotments, and so far from its being a forgotten law, it is, we believe, the only law by which parish lands whether obtained by purchase or otherwise, are dealt with. By 1 and 2 William IV. cap. 42, the limit of land which might be purchased was extended from twenty to fifty acres in each parish, and the power was extended to guardians of the poor. For the same purpose the waste of a manor may be enclosed, and Crown lands to the extent of fifty acres (1 and 2 William IV. cap. 59). This policy of the law is as old as the statute of Elizabeth, which is the foundation of the poor law. The section of that Act (43 Elizabeth cap. 2, section 4) goes even further in what the correspondent calls "the direction of the laws only now being wished for," by providing that "convenient houses of dwelling for the impotent poor" may be erected at the cost of the parish for the purpose of placing "inmates or more families than one in one cottage or house." It could not, however, now be contended that the appropriation of comfortable cottages to the use of paupers would be a wise administration of the poor-law, and in regard to the allotments of parish lands, they now fall to the share, not of paupers, but of industrious labourers, and even small shopkeepers. This is probably an inevitable result of the modern poor-law system.

The Antwerp correspondent of a French journal gives a description of a new species of coffin, for which the inventor, a Belgian, had hoped to secure a place in the Exhibition, though to his great mortification the committee refused to allow it to figure among the other attractions of the big show. The peculiarity of the "cercueil perfectionné" is an ingenious piece of mechanism fitted into it which effectually obviates the possibility of being buried alive. The pressure of the earth upon the coffin liberates a sort of stiletto, which is so placed that on being disengaged it pierces the heart of the occupant. An idea prevails in France that the mistake of burying a living person is by no means so rare an occurrence as could be desired. The writer of an article which appeared some time ago in the *Figaro* stated that it was an exceedingly common thing for Frenchmen to insert a clause in their will directing their surviving relatives to call in a surgeon to perform the operation which the Belgian coffin performs automatically. That apprehensions of the same sort are not uncommon in Belgium the very invention of the contrivance in question shows.

Crich Cliff, one of the most prominent objects in Derbyshire, rising to a height of 1,000ft., and, according to Dr. Mantell, unequalled in England for the lesson it teaches of some of the ancient revolutions of the globe, was the scene three years ago of a great landslip. A huge chasm appeared in the hill, and the hillside was considerably disarranged, a house being wrecked, and a portion of a turnpike road, along with an immense mass of earth, being forced into the valley. A further disarrangement occurred last week, when some thousands of tons of stone and earth were precipitated down the hill, and a number of other deep fissures were caused. Happily no lives were lost.

An extraordinary occurrence was witnessed in Middleton, Ireland, one evening last week. Captain Foster, who is on a visit to Captain Smith Barry, a popular local landlord, during a stroll through the town was attracted by a picture of Mr. Parnell exhibited in a shop window. This he purchased and smashed with his stick in the street. A large crowd collected and would have given him a drubbing but for the timely intervention of the police. Such is the state of feeling that subsequently the bakers and other shopkeepers were warned to discontinue supplying Captain Smith Barry as long as Captain Foster remained his guest.

To meet the extra work which it is expected will be caused by the new system of sixpenny telegrams, three new trunk lines of wires have been erected, the first from London *vid* Aylesbury, then north of Birmingham to the west of Chester, half-way between Liverpool and Manchester, through Wigan and Lancaster to Carlisle; the second from London *vid* Peterborough, Doncaster, York, and Darlington to Newcastle; and the third over the London and South-Western Railway to Basingstoke, through Andover and Salisbury, to Plymouth, each route having branches at various points from the main circuits. Similar extensions have been made on a smaller scale in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. A number of three-wire submarine cables for service under water have also been provided for the use of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, and the Orkney and Shetland Islands. New telegraph poles to the extent of 850 miles have also been added upon the public roads in England. Apart from the extension of wire made on the railways and canals, in addition to the present 11,600 miles of new wire already put up, no less than 9,200 miles of wire, making a grand total of 20,800, or a distance equalling 100 journeys to and from Paddington and Carmarthen in Wales, have been erected upon these poles. At the several offices in London and its districts where pneumatic tube working is resorted to, an additional four miles of tubing will be further used to meet the pressure expected, and for which purpose a large new tube-room, into which they are now being removed, has been specially prepared on the basement of the London Central Telegraph Office. The additional number of telegraph instruments purchased to meet the contingency are no less than forty Wheatstone automatic of the most improved pattern, and capable of working upwards of 300 words per minute. Eight quadruple 300 duplex sounders, 350 single current sounders, 150 single needle instruments, and ten repeaters, in addition to the duplex system, which will be completed in the case of 100 circuits. To work this enormous increase the staff in the United Kingdom will be augmented by 1,200 telegraphists and over 1,000 messengers. The extra expenditure which has been entailed is half a million sterling, of which £475,000 has been spent on new poles, wires, instruments, &c., and £25,000 in building and extending offices, many of which have been rebuilt during the last two or three years.

The cricket returns are now complete, and show Mr. W. G. Grace in his right place, at the top of the list. His fine average of 45·7 in first-class matches is largely owing to his sensational scoring during the last weeks of the season, and it is really more noticeable than Shrewsbury's average of 56 10. Dr. Grace played forty-one innings and the Nottingham professional only twenty-four. Mr. W. W. Read stands very easily third with 43·9 for thirty-eight innings; and Messrs. W. H. Patterson and Newham are also in the forties. Gunn has a right to the next place; for though there are other players with bigger averages, they have only played in two or three matches. Of the bowlers, Briggs, of Lancashire, is noticeable with an average of 13·50 per wicket, while Attewell and Flowers, both of Nottingham, have also been very destructive. Among the gentlemen, though Mr. A. G. Steel and a few others have slightly better averages, Dr. Grace again heads the list, for he has bowled nearly twice as much as any other bowler and taken about twice as many wickets. His play this season has been greatly superior to that of the seasons immediately preceding it; indeed, this year's batting average is eleven points better than last year's. The most remarkable thing about Dr. Grace's cricket is not his magnificent play now and again, but the fact that for twenty years he has held such a prominent position unassailed.

A new anecdote illustrating the care with which noblemen are made, and the poor material which Kings often use in making them, is related in a Swedish contemporary. When King Gustavus III. was in Paris he was visited by a deputation of the Sorbonne. That learned body congratulated the King on the happy fortune which had given him so great a man as Scheele, the discoverer of magnesium, as his subject and fellow-countryman. The King, who took small interest in the progress of science, felt somewhat ashamed that he should be so ignorant as never even to have heard of the renowned chemist. He despatched a courier at once to Sweden with the laconic order, "Scheele is to be immediately raised to the dignity and title of a count." "His Majesty must be obeyed," said the Prime Minister, as he read the order; "but who in the world is Scheele?" A secretary was told to make inquiries. He came back to the Premie with very full information. "Scheele is a good sort of fellow," said he, "a lieutenant in the artillery, a capital shot, and a first-rate hand at billiards." The next day the lieutenant became a count, and the illustrious scholar and scientist remained a simple burgher. The error was not discovered until the King returned home. His Majesty was indignant. "You must all be fools," he exclaimed, "not to know who Scheele is!" He himself had only known for three or four weeks.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.—The aggregate number of patients relieved during the week ending Sept. 19 was—medical 806 surgical 363; total 1,169, of which 441 were new cases.

"laden with the scent of flowers,
And breath of odorous spring."

SPINNER'S TEA. A company of merchants are now selling through Spinner & Co. the choicest teas that come from India and China in packets only. Prices 1s. 8d., 2s., 2s. 4d., and 2s. 8d. a pound. These are the perfection of teas, and will please the most fastidious.—Agents wanted in every town and village. For terms, apply to Spinner & Co., 60, Strand, London.—SPINNER & CO., London and Liverpool.

MESSRS. FRY AND SONS are daily receiving numerous testimonials from the medical profession speaking in high terms of their Pure Concentrated Soluble Cocoa. Sir Charles Cameron, M.D., President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, says:—"I have formed a high opinion of its value. It is especially adapted to those whose digestive organs are weak, and I strongly recommend it as a substitute for tea." Ask your grocer for a sample of this delicious Cocoa.

CAUTION.—WATER FILTRATION.—The public are cautioned, before purchasing Filters, to see that what they buy are really water purifiers, and not mere strainers, which latter, although rendering water bright, do not remove the organic and mineral impurities In the instructions to the local boards of health by order of the Privy Council it has been distinctly stated that the old sponge filters are of no avail for purifying water. These filters are constantly advertised as a new patent, whereas the ONLY FILTERS, containing nothing but the purest ANIMAL CHARCOAL, are those supplied by the LONDON AND GENERAL WATER-PURIFYING COMPANY (Limited), 157, Strand (four doors from Somerset House), W.C.—Read "Water: its Impurities and Purification." Price 6d.

LATEST NEWS.

Paris, Sept. 23.

A telegram from Constantinople to-day states that the Turks have occupied a Roumelian village near the frontier for the purpose of asserting their rights; but they will not advance until an agreement has been arrived at with the Powers.

It is semi-officially stated that no formal proposal has as yet been made for an understanding among the Powers on the Bulgaro-Roumelian question, but active pourparlers are in progress. Russia appears to have taken a certain initiative in the negotiations. The Powers are in favour of a Conference being held as soon as possible.

Philippopolis, Sept. 24.

Battalions of Reserves continue to arrive here, and are immediately sent forward to the frontier. Volunteer battalions of infantry and squadrons of cavalry are in course of formation all over the province. The measures of the Provisional Government are being carried out with perfect order. The Russian officers in the Roumelian as well as the Bulgarian service have resigned their commissions, and all the troops are now commanded exclusively by Bulgarian officers.

It is stated on the best authority that the British and other foreign representatives have telegraphed to their respective Governments that the movement for the union was purely of Bulgarian origin; that its realisation came as a surprise, even to Russia; and that the recognition of the union would constitute a guarantee of Bulgarian internal independence.

Constantinople, Sept. 25.

The Ministry has been dismissed, and replaced by a new Cabinet, which is composed as follows:—Kiamil Pasha, Grand Vizier; Said Pasha (at present the Turkish Ambassador in Berlin), Minister for Foreign Affairs; Munir Pasha, Minister of the Interior; Server Pasha, Minister of Justice; Ali Saib Pasha, Minister of War; Aarifi Pasha, President of the Council of State; Zihni Effendi, Minister of Evkafs; Artin Effendi, Mustechar at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs; Syreya Bey, First Secretary to the Sultan. Edham Pasha has been appointed Ambassador to France, Essad Pasha, at present Ambassador in the French capital, being transferred to Berlin.

St. Petersburg (*viâ* Gumbinnen), Sept. 24.

The situation is daily becoming more complicated. A large and influential portion of the people are in favour of actively assisting Bulgaria in resisting any advance of the Turkish troops, and this feeling is growing. Many, indeed, urge that the Prince of Bulgaria should himself declare war if any movement of Turkish troops is made beyond the Eastern Roumelian frontier.

New York, Sept. 25.

The taxidermist who has had charge of the work upon Jumbo's body states that the elephant's stomach contained many English coins—gold as well as silver and bronze. His tusks had by the collision with the train been driven nearly through the skull. According to later accounts as to the accident, Jumbo at the last moment faced and charged the locomotive. The elephant's skin was found to be an inch and a half thick, and it weighed one thousand five hundred and thirty-seven pounds. The skeleton weighs two thousand four hundred pounds, and the total weight of the body was over six tons. The cost of stuffing the elephant will be two thousand dollars, besides the wages for three months of those engaged in the work.

Another circular note has been addressed by the Porte to the signatories of the Treaty of Berlin. After declaring that the Ottoman Government is obliged to exercise the rights conferred on it by the Treaty of Berlin, the circular says:—"Nevertheless, in face of the dangers of the situation, the Ottoman Government considers it necessary to have recourse to the benevolent intervention of the signatory Powers for the purpose of recalling and bringing back Prince Alexander to respect for his duties." According to a despatch from Rome, the British Government has made proposals to Italy and other Powers with a view to the adoption of measures for restoring the *status quo* in Turkey.

There is now no doubt that the number of Christians massacred during the summer in Tonquin, Annam, and Cochin-China was even much larger than was at first stated. The first account set down the total number of massacres at 10,000; but the Superior of the Foreign Missions in Paris now states that 24,000 Christians, including several French missionaries, were murdered. Seven or eight thousand Christians escaped to Saigon. The news (the Paris correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says) has created consternation here. Heartrending accounts are published of the sufferings of the missionaries and their flocks. At Nuonhi, in Annam, the superior of a college and a whole host of Christians were slaughtered pell-mell. Some were thrown into the sea with their hands tied behind their backs. Some of the missionaries tried to make a stand, muskets in hand, but were soon defeated. Churches, schools, and dwelling-houses were everywhere burned to ashes, and the Christians who escaped had to walk for days without food or shelter in order to reach places of refuge. General de Courcy is accused by the missionaries of having taken no steps to save them. The Vicar Apostolic of Cochin-China, Mgr. van Camelbeke, sent a missionary to him with the sad tidings of the massacres, and to ask for aid. The missionary was not received, but, having succeeded after a long wait in seeing the general, the latter promised to send a gunboat, which came to Quinhong after the place was burned down, and never fired a shot owing to the absence of orders.

An immense crowd assembled on Wednesday evening to hear Mdme. Christine Nilsson sing from the balcony of the Grand Hotel, Stockholm, and while they were dispersing eighteen persons were crushed to death and nearly thirty were injured.

The funeral of the late Rev. Dr. Corrie, the venerable Master of Jesus College, Cambridge, took place yesterday (Friday). At the service in the College chapel the Vice-Chancellor and many other Heads of Colleges, Professors and Fellows in residence, the Mayor, and other townsmen were present. The service was performed by the Dean and the Tutor; and after the body had been taken round the courts, it was removed to Newton, near Wisbech, for interment.

SOCIETY.

A marriage is arranged between Captain Hippesley, Royal Engineers, son of Mr. John Hippesley, F.R.S., F.R.A.S., of Ston-Easton, Somerset, and Miss Violet Smyth, daughter of Major-General J. H. Smyth, C.B., Fromhurst, Farnborough, Hants.

Also between Captain Brinkley, 98th North Staffordshire Regiment, eldest son of the late Mr. Walter Stephens Brinkley, of Knockmoroon House, co. Dublin, and Mary, eldest daughter of General Carleton, C.B., Royal Artillery.

Also between Captain Alfred Harold Middleton, late 93rd Sutherland Highlanders, and Beatrice, second daughter of Sir George Home-Speirs, Bart., of Culcreuch, Stirlingshire.

The marriage of Prince Waldemar of Denmark and the Princess Marie of Orleans has been fixed for the 22nd of October. A correspondent of the *Daily News* says there is an attempt to revive in the trousseau of the bride the fashions set by her grandmother, the Duchess of Orleans, during her short and happy married life. "Some of the dresses are copied from portraits of that meritorious and deeply-afflicted Princess, which were taken in the halcyon period of her life. They have the neatly-pleated berthe which is crossed over to the left side in front, and the long stomacher waist. Other dresses have a belt and broad buckles, and some low-bodied ones are to be worn with a white chemisette. These can be turned into morning dresses with the adjunction of pelerines crossed at the waist and brought round into a bow behind. Apart from what may be called the ancestral style of toilettes, there will be others in the Marie Antoinette and Anne of Austria style. Of this style some idea may be gathered from Mdme. Albani's costumes in *I Puritani*. The Princess having a fair skin, and a fresh, country complexion, is able to wear green. Some of her walking dresses will be in woollens of this colour, very neatly made, and trimmed sparingly with velvet and narrow gold and silver braid. Her dinner and evening gala dresses are in pale blue and pale pink of various materials. There are some of gauze shot with silver, and threads of the colours just named with the flowers of silver. The Court dresses will be very rich. The Princess will receive the share of the jewels, laces, and fans of the Duchess of Orleans which the Duchess of Chartres inherited. The fans were executed by the greatest painters of France, and ordered as wedding presents for the Duchess by the Duc d'Orleans and Louis Philippe. I should not forget the classical-looking and elegantly simple dresses in white nun's veiling and woollen stuff. They are to be worn with a rose or bouquet of natural flowers in the corsage, and another in the hair. Some of the riding-habits have corsages in the eighteenth-century style. Like most of the ladies of her family, the Princess is a great equestrian."

There was a large gathering of relatives and friends on Wednesday morning at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, on the occasion of the marriage of the Rev. Lord Victor Seymour with Miss Cator, daughter of Mr. Albemarle Cator, of Woodbastwick Hall, Norfolk, and Beckenham Place, Kent. The marriage was solemnised by the Rev. St. John Blunt, Master of St. Katherine's, assisted by the Revs. T. C. Gibbs and J. Herington, and the service was fully choral. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a magnificent dress of white satin, covered with old Chantilly lace, the long train being embroidered with feathers on it in silk, and her veil was fastened with diamond ornaments, and she also wore a diamond and pearl locket, the gift of the bridegroom. Her train was carried by her two youngest brothers, and she was attended by ten bridesmaids, seven being her sisters, and Lady Margaret Seymour, Miss Barne, and Miss Dashwood, who wore cream-coloured canvas dresses trimmed with a deeper shade of lace and sashes, and high white pointed hats trimmed with the same lace. Each wore a gold safety pin with pearl device, the gift of the bridegroom. Sir John Willoughby was the best man. Among the guests were the Marquis and Marchioness of Hertford, the Dowager Marchioness of Hertford, the Earl of Yarmouth, Mr. and Mrs. Cator, Lady Florence Blunt, Lady Constance Barne, Captain and Lady Mary Dashwood, Lady Georgiana Drummond Hood, Count and Countess Gleichen, Lady Maude Seymour, Admiral and Mrs. Cator, Lord and Lady Ernest Seymour, Sir John, Lady, and Miss Lennard, Mr. Stanhope Banks, Mr. Lascelles, Mr. Gosling, Captain and the Hon. Mrs. Dansey, &c. The wedding breakfast was at 83, Eaton-square, and later Lord and Lady Victor Seymour left for North Lodge, Ascot, the bride's travelling dress being of brown silk and velvet, with brown felt hat.

On the 4th inst., at St. Jude's Church, South Kensington, was solemnised the marriage of Mr. Lawrence Ingham Baker, eldest son of Mr. L. J. Baker, of Ottershaw Park, Surrey, and of Queen's-gate, Kensington, with Helen Agnes, youngest daughter of Sir Samuel Morton Peto, Bart., of Blackhurst, Tunbridge Wells. The bride was conducted to the chancel by her father, Sir Morton Peto. She was attended by Master Hugh Baker as page, wearing a costume (temp. Charles I.) of black velvet, with collars and cuffs of point lace, and having a yellow satin waistcoat. The bride was attired in bodice and detached train of white frisé velvet over a petticoat of white duchesse satin, draped with a deep flounce of Brussels lace (Lady Peto's gift). She had a narrow wreath of orange blossoms and a tulle veil. Her jewels included diamond and sapphire hoop rings, gifts of the bridegroom; a diamond spray fastening her veil, a diamond and sapphire bangle from Mrs. and Miss Mitchell, diamond and peridot brooch from Mr. and Mrs. A. Peto, a pearl and diamond bracelet from Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, and a cameo bracelet (sixteenth century) from Mr. Harold Peto. The four bridesmaids were artistically dressed in cream Indian silk, made very full everywhere, with bishop sleeves, and had yellow Liberty silk sashes, and Gainsborough hats of puffed silk and lace, with large yellow feather aigrettes. They wore pearl brooches, and carried bouquets of yellow marguerites, both gifts from the bridegroom. Lady Peto, mother of the bride, wore a dress of bronze broché and velvet, the bonnet, *en suite*, being relieved by a cluster of pink flowers, and carried a pink and while bouquet. Mrs. Baker, mother of the bridegroom, was in brown velvet. Mrs. Herbert Peto was in sapphire-blue velvet and white lace, and wore a cream bonnet trimmed with gold. Mrs. Mitchell wore yellow silk covered with coffee lace, and looped with brown velvet ribbons, bonnet to match, and bouquet of yellow marguerites; and the Misses Baker were in cream silk and lace. The Rev. Dr. Forrest, the vicar, performed the marriage rite, assisted by the Rev. E. A. Eardley Wilmot, M.A., vicar of St. James's, Tunbridge Wells, Sir Morton giving his daughter away. The service terminated with an impressive address by the vicar. On quitting the church the wedding party, which was confined to the members of both families, drove to Bailey's Hotel, Gloucester-road, where breakfast was served. There were present Mr. and Mrs. Baker, Dr. Forrest, Rev. E. Eardley Wilmot, Mr. and Mrs. Peto, Mr. and Miss Wyndham, Mrs. Crossley, Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. and Miss Kemp, Mr. Forster, Mr. R. C. Forster, the Misses Baker, Mrs. Greaves, and Miss Thompson. In the course of the afternoon the young couple left *en route* for the English lakes, the bride wearing a travelling costume of brown velvet and cashmere, and a Gainsborough hat trimmed with velvet, and feathers to match. The wedding presentscomprised many costly gifts from relatives and friends.

On September 1, at Maxstoke, Warwickshire, by the Hon. and Rev. A. H. J. Massey, vicar of All Saints, Bromsgrove, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Merriman, headmaster of Cranleigh School, Sussex, Charles J. Hatfield, of Hartsdown, Isle of Thanet (late captain King's Dragoon Guards), was married to Maud Harriet Sinclair, eldest daughter of the Rev. S. Back, vicar of Maxstoke. The bride's dress was ivory-white satin, trimmed with orange blossom; Brussels lace veil; ornaments, pearls. Her travelling dress was electric-blue cashmere and plush, and bonnet to match. The six bridesmaids wore white muslin dresses, trimmed with Valenciennes lace and insertion; eau de Nil satin sashes and waistcoats, white straw hats trimmed to match. They carried bouquets of stephanotis and red roses, and wore pearl arrow brooches, the gifts of the bridegroom. The bride carried two bouquets of gardenias, eucharis lilies, and myrtle, the gifts of Lord Leigh and the bridegroom. Among the guests were Mrs. Back, Miss R. Coventry, Miss A. Coventry, Mr. and Mrs. A. Douglas Hamilton, Mrs. Gilliat, Miss Hatfield, Hon. and Rev. A. H. J. Massey, Hon. Mrs. Massey, Dr. and Mrs. Merriman, Colonel Robinson, &c. The bride and bridegroom left for Cheltenham, *en route* for Devonshire.

There was a large congregation on the 17th inst. at St. Mary Abbotts, Kensington, on the occasion of the marriage of the Rev. H. Darwin Burton, son of Mr. F. M. Burton, of Highfield Grange, Lincolnshire, with Helen Philippa, eldest daughter of General Baumgartner, C.B., of Island Hall, near Godmanchester, who gave his daughter away. The officiating clergy were the Rev. F. Martin Burton, the Hon. Algernon Baumgartner, and the Rev. H. Chamberlain, and the service was choral. The bride wore a corsage and train of ivory brocolette, the jupe of satin duchesse being profusely trimmed with Honiton lace and orange-blossoms, and her veil was a long and handsome one of the same lace, and she carried a large bouquet of beautiful white flowers. Her bridesmaids were three of her sisters, two sisters of the bridegroom, and her niece, Miss Dora M'Farland. They wore dresses of cream Bulgarian crêpe trimmed with wide Mauresque lace and ribbon, with large moiré sashes to match, and bonnets of grenat plush, the two youngest wearing Rembrandt hats, and all carried posies of deep red roses. The bride's mother wore a handsome dress of smoke-grey velvet and faille française, with bonnet to match. The wedding breakfast was at Sheffield-gardens, and shortly before two the bride and bridegroom left for the Lakes, Mrs. Burton's dress being of brown tweed, tailor-made, with hat trimmed with bird to match.

On the 3rd inst., at St. Peter's Church, Bournemouth, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Henry Charlton Hawkins, of New College, Oxon, and barrister-at-law, Lincoln's-inn, only son of Mr. John William Hawkins, of Kensington, with Emily Martha Faulkner, daughter of the late Mr. Francis M. Faulkner, of Folkestone. The officiating clergy were the Rev. R. H. Cooke, vicar of Healaugh, Yorkshire, uncle of the bride, assisted by the Rev. G. Stopford Ram, vicar of the parish, the Rev. Vernon R. Carter, rector of Almer, Dorset, cousin of the bridegroom, and the Rev. F. Cosser. The ten bridesmaids wore dresses of ivory-white spotted muslin, trimmed with lace to match; amber surah silk sashes; sailor hats trimmed with lace and shaded yellow roses. The six elder bridesmaids wore pearl horseshoe pins, the four younger gold brooches; and they all carried yellow and white bouquets, the gifts of the bridegroom. Before the arrival of the bride the choir and clergy, preceded by the crossbearer, entered the church from the vestry, and marched in procession to the west door, whence they, immediately on the arrival of the bride, started up the nave singing the marriage hymn. The bride wore a dress of ivory-white satin, draped in front with Limerick lace, plain full train, tulle veil, wreath of orange blossoms, myrtle and jessamine; she wore also a diamond brooch, and two gold bracelets, one being the gift of the bridegroom, as well as the beautiful bouquet of flowers which she carried. The bride was given away by her uncle, General Crawford Cooke, of Abshot, Bournemouth. After the ceremony was over the wedding party drove to breakfast at Abshot House, the residence of General Crawford Cooke. The newly-married couple left early in the afternoon, amid showers of rice, for Oxford, *en route* to North Wales. The bride's travelling dress was of navy-blue flannel over striped skirt, hat to correspond.

A grand ball was given on the 17th inst. by the Marquis and Marchioness of Breadalbane at Taymouth. The invitations were "to meet their Royal Highnesses the Princess Frederica of Hanover and the Duke of Cambridge," both of whom were guests at the castle. The company assembled at ten o'clock in the magnificent old banner hall, where the dancing took place. A string band from Glasgow occupied the orchestra, and the Breadalbane Pipers were in attendance for the reel and Highland schottishe dancing. The ball opened by the Marquis leading out the Princess, and the Duke of Cambridge dancing with the Marchioness. Among those present were Lord and Lady Sandhurst, Lady Hermione Graham and Miss Graham, Lord Rodney, Lord Cairns, Lady Helen Macgregor, and the Misses Macgregor, Baron Von Pawel Rammingen, Lady and Miss Ramsay, Capt. and Lady R. Fellowes, Hon. Miss Paget, Hon. Miss Grenville, Hon. Mr. Baillie Hamilton, Hon. Mrs. Stewart Menzies, the Provost of Perth, Sir D. and Lady Currie and party, Sir Robert and Miss Menzies, General Bateson, General Tyrwhitt, Captain Murray, Mr. Tennant, Mr. Magniac, Captain and Mrs. Bridges, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Athole Macgregor, Captain and Mrs. Dick Cunningham, Mr. Norman Gardyne, General Clark, Colonel Prior, Mr. and Mrs. Bullough, Dr. and Mrs. M'Kay, Principal and Mrs. Shairp, &c. Dancing was kept up till an advanced hour. Shortly before midnight supper was served in the banqueting-hall, where the decorations and plate on the tables were most effective; and the noble host led the way with Princess Frederica. The dresses were very handsome, and the jewels worn by the Marchioness, Princess Frederica, Lady Rosamond Fellowes, and other ladies were beautiful. White was popular among the dancers. Several of the gentlemen were in full Highland dress.

Viscountess Combermere entertained a small party at luncheon on Friday, September 18. The table decorations consisted of a wreath of variegated pelargonium foliage and summer dahlias, intermingled and placed *à plat* round the edge of the cloth. The elegant Dresden china tazzas were filled with summer fruit and garden blossoms, amongst them some fine taxonias, tritonias, besides tendrils of the hop-bine and grapes, the latter from the hostess's Belgrave-square conservatory, attached to the vine-stems and leaves, which formed picturesque and pendent garlands. Amongst the guests were the Countess of Cottenham, Captain and Lady Alice Morland, Lord and Lady Thomas Hay, Hon. F. G. Molyneux, Sir Henry Keating, Canon Gibbings, Mr. G. V. Hill, &c. Lady Alice Morland wore a charming toilette, a pale pink crêpe de Chine skirt, draped in folds, with a pale pink watered silk bodice, and bonnet to match.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

NEW ACROSTIC RULES.

A Prize of One Guinea is given every month for the successful solution of the Acrostics that appear in the *John Bull*.

The present monthly competition will include the Acrostics that are given on September 5, 12, 19, and 26.

At the end of the month, in case competitors tie, they will proceed to guess off the ties, being debarred from prize-winning in the fresh monthly competitions so long as they are engaged in contesting the ties.

No competitor can gain more than two Monthly Prizes in the course of the year.

All solutions must be forwarded not later than the Monday week following the appearance of the Acrostic, addressed to the Acrostic Editor of the *John Bull*, 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, E.C., and signed by a pseudonym of not inordinate length.

Alternatives to the number of three are allowed.

All solutions received are acknowledged, whether correct or not.

ANSWER TO DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 2.

(Seventh Month, Tenth Year.)

1. H a M
2. O ss A
3. P ee L
4. S al T

Light 4.—*Cum grano salis.*

Solutions have been received from Express, Noryb, Knutsford, Viz, The Owl, Hadji, Tim, S.O.F., Waddles, Camensis, Vertumnus, Godiva, Tilly Slowboy, Mrs. Mumms, Magnet, Hampton Courtier, Sociable, Ketha, Katydid, Peewit, Allspice, Etak, Pen, Two Countesses, Todcat, Iris, Paddy, Conjecture, Pegasus, M.A.E.B., Persevere, James Crow, Noremac, Quandary, and Culverin.

July Ties.—A Casual and Land o' Nod have sent correct solutions, and remain competing.

August Ties.—Roma and Bios have sent correct solutions, and remain competing.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 4.

(Seventh Month, Tenth Year.)

Proem.

The country boasts one virtue withal,
That ofttimes, we know, goes before a fall.

1.

Grimy and black you see him appear—
In the club well-known when May draws near.

2.

'S gilt nur ein Kaiserstadt, 's gilt nur ein' Wien,
And here may its beauty and fashion be seen.

3.

An easy defence that an oath or two
May make a jury regard as true.

4.

Here you may read how Paris became
The source of sorrow and slaughter and shame.

5.

Secret of ages where it arose—
Secret now that each schoolboy knows!

We regret to learn that Lord Shaftesbury's condition is unchanged. At three o'clock yesterday (Friday) afternoon Dr. Bowles, Lord Shaftesbury's medical attendant, reported that his Lordship was becoming gradually weaker. The *Lancet* gives the following particulars of the illness of Lord Shaftesbury. It appears that for many months his Lordship has been suffering from a troublesome form of diarrhœa, and went to Folkestone in July, hoping that he should be invigorated and enabled to throw off that which had troubled him for so long a period. Unfortunately, about a month ago, when the diarrhœa appeared to be steadily diminishing, he took a chill when out in an unusually cold east wind, and a slight pleuro-pneumonia set in in the left side. This has continued to creep about the upper part of the lung ever since, sometimes getting a little better, but never thoroughly well. For the last week he has shown evident signs of increasing weakness, which, considering his Lordship's great age, naturally causes his medical attendant, Dr. Bowles, the greatest anxiety.

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